Bengaluru Tuesday, January 6, 2026 Pages 16 Vol 79 No 6 ₹7

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DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Maduro pleads not guilty to drug trafficking charges

To stay in New York jail, next hearing March 17

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World's wealthy add $2.2 trillion to their fortunes

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India cut Russia oil imports to make me happy: Trump

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2 injured in Manipur blasts P.9

Long road to SC

- Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam accused of rioting, unlawful assembly, murder
- Both Khalid and Imam have moved the trial court, Delhi HC and the SC for bail
- Initially their pleas were heard separately, but in 2022, the HC clubbed them
- Sessions court and HC had rejected their bail pleas earlier

In prosecutions alleging offences which implicate the sovereignty of the State, delay does not operate as a trump card that automatically displaces statutory restraint
-SUPREME COURT

Delhi riots: SC junks Khalid, Imam bail pleas

Says the duo is on 'different footing', grants bail to co-accused

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed the bail plea of activists Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam in a case registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for their "central role" and for being the "ideological drivers" in the larger conspiracy related to the 2020 Delhi riots, which claimed the lives of 53 people.

A bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and N V Anjaria, however, granted bail to co-accused Gulfisha Fatima, Meeran Haider, Saleem Khan, Shifa, and Shadad in the case.

On denying bail to Khalid and Imam while granting it to five others, the court cited "hierarchy of participation" and observed that the duo stood on a "different footing". The two activists can now apply for bail after a year on completion of the examination of protected witnesses, the court said.

"In prosecutions alleging offences which implicate the sovereignty, integrity, or security of the State, delay does not operate as a trump card that automatically displaces statutory restraint. Rather, delay serves as a trigger for heightened judicial scrutiny," the bench said, rejecting their plea that they have remained in jail for over five years.

In case of Khalid and Imam, the bench noted that in view of the central and formative role, the statutory embargo was attracted and court was not persuaded that their continued threshold of incarceration has crossed the threshold of Section 43D(5) of the UAPA.

As per Section 43D(5), no person can be released on bail if there are reasonable grounds for believing that the accusation is prima facie true.

The bench said the right to personal liberty was of seminal importance and that prolonged incarceration was a matter of serious concern. "However, the constitutional court can't ignore Section 43D(5), which represents a legislative restriction. When the prosecution material prima facie disclosed offence, statutory restriction must prevail; if not, liberty must prevail."

▸ Supreme Court, Page 3B

UAPA vs long incarceration

Petitioners cite their 5-yr-long imprisonment, prosecution points to their 'central role' in Delhi riots

Police patrol a riot-hit area in Delhi on March 1, 2020. PTI FILE PHOTO

The February 2020 riots

Happened in north-east Delhi during widespread protests against CAA and NRC | 53 people died | 700+ people injured

ARRESTS

Sharjeel Imam Arrested on **Jan 28, 2020,** for speeches made during anti-CAA protests

Umar Khalid Arrested in **Sept 2020** on charges of delivering provocative speeches

Later arrested in a **larger conspiracy case** in Aug '20

Other accused also arrested in 2020

Sharjeel Imam (37)

- A former PhD student of JNU
- A computer science graduate from IIT Bombay
- Hails from Bihar
- Faced sedition cases in multiple states

Umar Khalid (38)

- Former JNU student leader
- Was a PhD student of modern history
- Hails from Delhi
- Incarcerated in Tihar jail since his arrest in 2020

'This is my life now': Khalid

On hearing the SC order, Umar Khalid appeared resigned to his fate, saying, "Ab yehi zindagi hai" (this is my life now). His partner Banjyotsna Lahiri shared an exchange between them on social media. He had also said, "I am really happy for the others who got bail!"
Details on Page 8

Oppn questions denial of bail

The Opposition questioned the denial of bail to the duo and claimed that 'bail is the rule and jail the exception' dictum applies only to certain individuals, pointing out to repeated paroles granted to rape convict Gurmeet Ram Rahim.
Details on Page 8

Cong must apologise: BJP

The BJP on Monday said that the SC order is a "big slap" on the Congress' face and demanded that the party apologise for supporting the "tuk-de-tukde gang". It called Khalid and Imam the "poster boys" of divisive forces in India.
Details on Page 8

B'luru transport watchdog 'dead on arrival'

Rules keep tunnel road, other projects out of BMLTA's ambit

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

End of a long wait

- BMLTA Act passed by BJP govt in Dec 2022
- Published in Karnataka gazette in Jan 2023
- Since no rules were published, the Act was ineffective
- Now, govt publishes 24 draft rules

Three years after enacting the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA)—conceptualised on the lines of Transport for London (TfL) — the Karnataka government has notified a set of rules, putting in motion the process of finally 'operationalising' the statutory watchdog.

What was meant to be a unified transport planner for Bengaluru, however, may have little significance as the state government has kept the plans and decisions that are already approved out of its scrutiny.

On January 3, the Urban Development Department (UDD) published the draft rules for governing the BMLTA, comprising detailed procedures for its composition, meetings, financial management and audit framework. Citizens have 30 days to share their objections and suggestions.

Among the total of 24 rules mentioned in the draft notification, the last one specifically states that all previous decisions, plans, operations and pending proceedings on the date of commencement of these rules shall be deemed to have been construed under the BMLTA Act.

The sequence of events is interesting. Projects worth over Rs 1 lakh crore, which the government has specifically proposed to decongest the city, including tunnel roads, 12 flyovers and new roads along the buffer zones of stormwater drains, will not come under the ambit of BMLTA as they are already approved by the government.

▸ BMLTA, Page 3B

Count of state's tigers, other wildlife begins

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka is set to estimate the population of tigers and five other carnivores and mega herbivores, as part of the sixth cycle of the All India Tiger Estimation Survey which will cover areas in and outside the tiger reserves. Ground work on the survey began on Monday.

The quadrennial exercise will culminate in the publication of the estimation report in early 2027.
Details on Page 4

Arms Act cases in state spike by close to 46% in a year

DH SPECIAL

MANJUNATH SHETTAR & SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Arms Act cases

2023	294
2024	280
2025	409

The number of cases registered under the Arms Act, 1959 in the state has increased by nearly 46% in 2025. According to data accessed by *DH*, in 2024, 280 cases were reported, which increased to 409 in 2025. In 2023, 294 cases were reported.

Recently, the Arms Act was invoked in the Ballari case where one person was killed during a clash. In Bengaluru, recently, an estranged husband shot his wife and surrendered to the police.

Senior police officials said the rise in cases was predominantly due to increased vigilance. "We have been strict and have stepped up vigilance and hence cases have increased. Officials have kept a close watch especially in the North Karnataka region where use and availability of country made arms is high," M A Saleem, director general and inspector general of police (DG&IGP), told *DH*.

The department has also been strict while granting licences to procure arms to ensure that licensed arms are not misused.

▸ Arms Act, Page 3B

B'desh bans IPL telecast in retaliatory move

DHAKA, PTI: Bangladesh on Monday banned the broadcast of IPL's upcoming season to protest pacer Mustafizur Rahman's ouster from the world's biggest T20 league on BCCI instructions amid a steady deterioration of the country's diplomatic ties with India.

A statement from the information and broadcasting ministry of Muhammad Yunus' interim government stated that no "logical reason" was given by the BCCI while instructing Kolkata Knight Riders to release Rahman from its roster.
Details on Page 14

Gas leak at AP ONGC site sparks inferno; villages evacuated

HYDERABAD, DHNS: A major gas leak from an ONGC drilling site in Ambedkar Konaseema district of Andhra Pradesh triggered a raging fire on Monday, threatening nearby residents and sparking widespread panic. In Irusumandalam village of Malkipuram mandal, gas shot skyward with fierce flames that scorched around 500 coconut trees in surrounding areas.

Authorities evacuated 600 people within a 5-km radius. Firefighting teams and emergency response units rushed to contain the blaze and halt the leak, while relief camps were set up in safer zones for displaced villagers. Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu directed officials to ensure no hardships for residents, provide food, water, medical aid and relocate them to secure areas.

The leak occurred during work at Well Mori 5 in KG Basin, executed by ONGC's PEC operator Deep Industries. Locals alerted authorities after hearing a loud blast.

Flames leap out of the ONGC site in Andhra Pradesh. PTI

▸ Gas leak, Page 3B

BJP MLA & Cong MLC clash in Bidar

BIDAR, DHNS: Humnabad BJP MLA Dr Siddalingappa Patil and Congress MLC Bhimrao Patil came to blows after a verbal altercation during the Karnataka Development Programme (KDP) meeting in the presence of Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre here on Monday.

At one stage, the MLA raised his hand to assault the MLC. The two were seen pushing each other. It started when the MLA sought details of forest land in his seat.
Details on Page 4

Chaos at Somanna event, Page 3

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SEAT FEAT

Siddu beats Urs, to be state's longest-serving CM

PRATHIMA NANDAKUMAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is all set to break the late D Devaraj Urs' record (7 years and 239 days) as the longest-serving chief minister of Karnataka on Wednesday. But it is not just the record tenure that binds the two leaders. They represent two different eras of social justice. Siddaramaiah is also the only chief minister after Urs to complete a full five-year term.

If Urs created a new political base – of backward classes and Dalits with his robust legislation – land reforms act and reservation to backward classes, Siddaramaiah fashioned his politics on 'Ahinda' coalition (minorities, Dalits and backward classes) pushing populist schemes and freebies.

DH illustration: **Deepak Harichandan**

In the 1970s, the Karnataka Land Reforms Act 1974 brought in land ceiling and transfer of land ownership to the tiller, empowering landless and marginal farmers, while altering the political dominance of landed communities like Vokkaligas, Lingayats and Brahmins. Urs mainstreamed small caste groups among OBCs and nurtured new political leadership. Reservation for backward classes in education, employment and local bodies (Havanur Commission) made him a hero among the marginalised while alienating dominant castes.

Cut to 2025, Kuruba strongman Siddaramaiah is drawing similar criticism for wooing the Ahinda bloc at the cost of the dominant castes following the 2018 Lingayat movement demanding a separate religion tag. His run-ins with JD(S) patriarch H D Deve Gowda and now his power tussle with his deputy and D K Shivakumar have antagonised the Vokkaligas who hold sway in the Old Mysuru region.

▸ Siddaramaiah, Page 3B

MARATHON MEN

D Devaraj Urs

- Two terms
- 1972-1977 & 1978-1980
- 7 years 239 days (record until 2026)

Siddaramaiah

- Two terms
- May 2013-May 2018 & May 2023-Present
- Set to surpass Urs on Jan 7, 2026

AI ON THE ROAD

Techie's smart helmet flags traffic violations in real time

27-year-old develops device that alerts police after AI verification

KUSHAGRA BHARDWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

The city's chaotic traffic has inspired a 27-year-old techie to turn his regular helmet into a tool that sends real time traffic violation complaints to the police.

The experiment drew attention after Pankaj Tanwar posted images of the helmet and flagged violations on X on Saturday, writing, "I was tired of stupid people on the road, so I hacked my helmet into a traffic police device...".

Though still in its nascency, the helmet monitors traffic violations in real time and flags them to the traffic police.

A Logitech webcam fitted on the helmet captures visuals and sends them to a mini-computer installed inside the safety gear, which runs a Python script to check for violations.

The suspected violations are then sent to larger AI models like ChatGPT and Gemini for a second check. Once confirmed, an email with the image, location, and timestamp is sent to the police.

A helmet-mounted Logitech webcam feeds visuals to a mini-computer running a Python script to detect traffic violations.

Speaking to *DH*, Tanwar said he created it as a fun weekend project and did not expect it to gain attention. "I like creating small, fun projects like this. I noticed that in my 15-minute drive to the office, I would see at least 10 to 12 such violations, putting themselves and others in danger. Later, I found out that in Bengaluru, citizens can report such violations to the police, who have a separate team to check them and issue challans. So, I made this helmet, which automates the process."

Tanwar said the device currently detects four violations — riding without a helmet, wrong lane driving, jumping traffic signals, and riding on footpaths.

During its first 10-to-15-minute ride, it flagged seven to eight violations. He said the device costs about Rs 4,000 and requires four components, all of which were available to him.

The post received over 1,000 responses, including from founders, traffic safety experts and the Bengaluru police.

"I received a lot of responses from people looking to invest in it, including companies like Ather Energy, but I have no plans to manufacture it commercially as of now.

"The police also reached out to me via DMs. I will meet them sometime this week to take the idea forward," he said.

A Rajasthan native, Tanwar said the device needs more fine-tuning.

He said that during the ride, the device also flagged a few false violations, though these were not forwarded to the police. "For instance, a man standing next to a parked bike was flagged as not wearing a helmet while riding. Similarly, a car parked in the opposite lane was also flagged. I am working to resolve these issues."

He has also built 120 such projects, including a smart bulb that changes colour based on his Zerodha portfolio and a 'Sanskari helmet' designed to tone down angry statements.

Corroded pipe behind Lingarajapuram water woes

BENGALURU, DHNS: Deploying robotic technology, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has found corroded pipeline as the cause of water contamination in Lingarajapuram.

"The robot helped us identify the exact spot where the contamination was taking place. Around 10.30 am on Monday, the exact spot was identified," the BWSSB said in a statement.

The pipe was nearly 40 years old, resulting in corrosion, officials said. The BWSSB has now decided to replace the pipeline.

Once the pipeline is replaced, water supply to the area will be restored. Currently, the area is being serviced under Sanchari Cauvery service.

Post-holiday traffic snarls grip Hebbal

Brings congestion back despite new loop road

BENGALURU, DHNS

As office-goers streamed back after an extended holiday break, severe congestion choked key corridors in north Bengaluru on Monday morning, particularly below the Hebbal flyover and along Baptist Hospital Road.

The newly opened second loop, intended to ease traffic, instead exposed fresh bottlenecks.

Traffic peaked between 8.45 am and 11 am and again from 5 pm to 9 pm, with vehicle volumes doubling or even tripling on narrower stretches, a senior Hebbal traffic police officer said.

"Peak congestion was evident as people returned after the long holiday break. Despite the heavy load, we managed traffic through manual regulation to prevent gridlock," the officer said.

DCP Jayaprakash (Traffic, North) identified areas beyond the Hebbal police station as major hotspots.

"Congestion towards the city was expected on Sunday evening and Monday morning. Outbound traffic also surges during Friday and Saturday peak hours," he said, adding that similar patterns are likely in the coming days as routines normalise.

Commuters expressed concern over emerging chokepoints near the Baptist Hospital bus stop, where multiple roads converge. Traffic from the Outer Ring Road loop, Airport Road (Ballari Road) loop, Tumakuru Road, KR Puram side, and adjoining service roads near Esteem Mall merge at this junction, resulting in crisscrossing movements and slowdowns.

The down ramp from the new loop ends close to the bus stop, forcing vehicles from the ORR loop to take a right turn to join Airport Road, while others veer left, often leading to chaos.

"The flyover is smooth, but the moment you descend near Baptist Hospital, everything comes to a halt. It took me nearly 20 minutes just to clear the bus stop because buses and cabs are all trying to merge at once," a commuter told *DH*.

Another commuter said, "The bus stop at the end of the descent is the real problem. Buses block two lanes, and vehicles coming off the new loop have to swerve sharply to avoid them."

While the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has projected the new loop as a solution to Hebbal's chronic traffic woes, commuters are calling for immediate corrective measures, including relocating the bus stop or adding lanes to streamline merging traffic.

Soon, pay & park on 35 roads in CBD areas

Civic body eyes Rs 5–7 crore in revenue from parking fees

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Parking will soon no longer be free on 35 roads located in Bengaluru's Central Business District (CBD) areas.

The Bengaluru City Central Corporation has proposed engaging private operators to collect parking fees on these roads for a period of three years, extendable by another two years.

The corporation expects to earn around Rs 5 crore to Rs 7 crore annually through parking fee collection.

This is likely the first time the civic body is bringing such a large number of roads under a pay-and-park system.

Although the state government approved Parking Policy 2.0 several years ago, it remained on paper due to resistance from local elected representatives, who feared the move could prove to be a vote-cutter.

Following the formation of five municipal corporations in place of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), the new civic bodies are taking steps to raise resources as they face pressure to become financially self-sustainable.

The list of 35 roads includes popular stretches such as Church Street, Museum Road, Crescent Road, Brigade Road, Ejipura Road, and 80 Feet Road and 100 Feet Road in Indiranagar, among others.

A pay-and-park kiosk on MG Road, Bengaluru. Parking Policy 2.0, approved several years ago, remained unimplemented due to resistance from local elected representatives. DH FILE

Stretches proposed for paid parking

• Commercial Street • Cambridge Road • Wood Street
Castle Street • Magrath Road • Church street
• Museum Road • Crescent Road • Brigade Road
• Ejipura Road • 80 feet Indiranagar • 100 feet Indiranagar
• 2nd Temple Road, Dattatreya Temple ward • Sampige Road
• Railway Parallel Road • BVK Iyengar Road • Dispensary Road
• Ibrahim Sahib Street • Main Guard Road from Safina Plaza to Dispensary Road • Dickenson Road • Mavalli Tank Bund Road
• DVG Road in Sunkenahalli ward • Shankar Mutt Road
• PMK Road • Millers Road Junction • Planetarium Road
• St John's Church Road • St John's Road • Vani Vilas Road
• Vasavi Temple Road • Kanakapura Road • Diagnonal Road
• Patalamma Road • T Mariyappa Road

Three minors detained for stone-pelting

BENGALURU, DHNS: The JJ Nagar police detained three juveniles for allegedly pelting stones at a religious procession in west Bengaluru on Sunday evening, officials said.

Confirming the development, Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Yathish N told *DH* that the detainees were aged between 14 and 15 years. "Further investigation is under way," he said.

The incident occurred shortly after 8 pm near VS Garden, under the JJ Nagar police station limits.

A girl who was part of the Om Shakti devotees' procession sustained a head injury and was shifted to hospital for treatment.

Tension prevailed for some time as devotees gathered outside the JJ Nagar police station demanding legal action. Senior police officers intervened to pacify the crowd, and security was stepped up in the area.

An FIR was registered under relevant sections of the BNS and SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Metro feeder buses from Bommasandra to Anekal

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) on Monday introduced four feeder bus services to connect Namma Metro's Yellow Line.

Bus services on the route MF-22D (via Chikka Hegde Cross, Iggaluru and Chandapura) are aimed at reducing congestion between the Bommasandra metro station and Anekal bus station, especially during peak hours.

The services will operate throughout the day, covering both peak and non-peak hours.

Departure timings from the Anekal bus station/ Bommasandra metro station: 5.35 am, 5.55 am, 6.15 am, 6.35 am, 7 am, 7.20 am, 7.45 am, 8.05 am, 8.35 am, 8.55 am, 9.10 am, 9.30 am, 9.50 am, 10.45 am, 10.55 am, 11.05 am, 12.50 pm, 2.45 pm, 2.50 pm, 3.10 pm, 3.35 pm, 3.55 pm, 4.20 pm, 4.40 pm, 5.20 pm, 5.40 pm, 6.10 pm, 6.30 pm, 7.05 pm, 7.25 pm, 7.55 pm, 8.15 pm, 9 pm and 9.20 pm.

Warden arrested, sacked for insulting Kannada; video viral

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bannerghatta police on Monday arrested a 54-year-old ex-serviceman, PV Suresh, for allegedly making derogatory remarks against students for speaking Kannada at AMC Engineering College.

Suresh PV

The college management has dismissed Suresh from his position as hostel warden with immediate effect.

The incident began when a group of hostel students approached Suresh to complain about poor hygiene on the premises.

Police said Suresh, a native of Kerala, became angry when the students spoke in Kannada. He reportedly insisted they should not use the language on campus, telling them to "speak Kannada at home" and asserting that he would decide whether Hindi or Kannada should be used.

A video of the confrontation recorded by the students went viral on social media, prompting swift response from both the institution and local authorities.

By Monday afternoon, the college issued an official dismissal letter, stating Suresh was removed "in the interest of the institution".

The Bannerghatta police registered an FIR and arrested Suresh on Monday. He has since been remanded to judicial custody. A senior officer confirmed that the warden's objection to the language, combined with his dismissal of student grievances about hygiene, led to the escalation.

The incident drew criticism from pro-Kannada organisations, who staged protests at the Bannerghatta Road campus.

Linguistic tension

Purushottama Bilimale, Chairperson of the Kannada Development Authority, sought an immediate report from the college principal, describing the event as part of an "intensifying language conflict". Bilimale has called for the Higher Education Department to require private institutions to give preference to staff who are proficient in Kannada and respectful of local culture.

He also urged monitoring of language disputes in private schools.

Police detain minor over mobile phone use in women's washroom at movie hall

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Madiwala police detained a minor boy after he was found switching on the camera on his mobile phone inside the women's washroom of a cinema theatre on Sunday evening.

Tension arose as an angry mob tried to thrash the boy, but police prevented any untoward incident and took him to the station safely.

A senior police officer said the incident was reported around 9 pm at Sandhya Theatre located on VP Road, Chikka Madiwala.

The boy allegedly switched on the camera on his mobile phone after entering the women's washroom. The women were shocked to see the boy using the washroom and holding a mobile with the camera on.

Panic spread among moviegoers who had visited the theatre to watch the re-release of Telugu film 'Nuvvu Naaku Nachav'.

The Madiwala police took the minor into custody and have initiated an inquiry.

Meanwhile, an angry mob tried to thrash the boy, but police prevented it.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the boy's uncle, who hails from Nepal, works as housekeeping staff at the theatre, and the boy had come to the city two weeks ago. He entered the women's washroom without noticing the signboard and was using his mobile phone inside.

"We are examining his mobile, and he will be handed over to a juvenile home. We suspect another person's involvement in the crime and he is currently absconding," the police officer said.

Extra lane planned on ORR to ease traffic: Police chief

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Traffic jams returned on the 17-km Outer Ring Road stretch between Silk Board Junction and KR Puram as office goers resumed work on Monday.

The corridor, long known for congestion, is undergoing redevelopment at an estimated cost of Rs 450 crore.

Seemant Kumar Singh

Meanwhile, the Bengaluru City Police plan to add an extra lane by reclaiming space currently occupied by barricades.

"Wherever possible, we plan to move the barricades along the road in an attempt to widen both the main carriageway and the service roads. This will lend an additional lane on the main carriageway and help with easing traffic chokepoints such as Iblur Junction, Hebbal and KR Puram," Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh told *DH*, adding that trial work had begun along certain stretches.

Singh said efforts would continue to push staggered office timings and encourage public transport and carpooling in 2026. "I plan to meet the ORR company representatives soon. We cannot force them to follow this, but we want to push these as the top solutions for congestion."

The Outer Ring Road Companies Association (ORRCA) said nearly 80% of firms in the area have adopted a four-day work-from-office schedule, with most staff attending offices between Monday and Thursday.

"Implementing the staggered timing model has been discussed before, but it has not been fruitful. From our end, this year, we are pushing companies to incentivise public transport as much as possible," said Manas Das, president of the association.

Plan in limbo

The Bus Priority Lane, proposed to return in 2026, has seen no progress. "The previous traffic police chief and the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) MD were keen on bringing it back. But the new officers in these posts have not shown interest. This keeps changing with frequent transfers," said an urban expert working with the government.

GT Prabhakar Reddy, Chief Traffic Manager (Operations), BMTC, said feeder bus services to tech parks continue, but have few users. "Pre Covid, these services did well. We issued a dual pass allowing access to feeder buses and regular BMTC services. Post Covid, however, the services never picked up," he said.

Transgender travails: A singer's journey on stage

BENGALURU, DHNS: A new play brings to the stage an intense and rarely told journey — the transformation of a classical singer whose voice changed after gender reassignment surgery.

Rumi Harish, earlier known as Sumathi Murthy, is a renowned Hindustani classical vocalist and features in 'Journey from A to E', which premieres at 5.30 pm on Tuesday at the Sabha on Kamaraj Road.

The play traces his struggle with losing his voice and his eventual path to rediscovering it. As the process unfolds, he grapples with despair before finding support from unexpected quarters.

Scripted by Rumi Harish, who has also composed the music, the production is directed by James Brunner and conceptualised by Dadapeer Jyman. The title refers to the shift in his shruti (keynote) after the surgery.

Expert: Insecticide banned after farmers' deaths still on sale

BENGALURU, DHNS: The highly hazardous pesticide monocrotophos continues to be sold across the country despite being banned over two years ago, owing to serious loopholes in the ban order, public policy expert Narasimha Reddy Donthi has said.

The ban was issued through a gazette notification dated September 29, 2025, following years of activism after the deaths of 35 farmers in Yavatmal, Maharashtra, in October 2017.

In a letter to the Central Insecticides Board and Registration Committee, Reddy said the notification was flawed.

He pointed out that while the notification allows the sale, distribution or use of monocrotophos 36% soluble liquid (SL) only for clearance of existing stocks until their expiry, it does not explicitly ban its manufacture.

The absence of a fixed deadline, he said, has enabled manufacturers to build large stocks, allowing the pesticide to remain in use for years.

Reddy also flagged a loophole that permits the sale of formulations other than the 36% SL variant, along with the lack of an explicit prohibition on new stocks. He said the order should mandate the destruction of stocks seized during enforcement and prescribe penalties for violations.

"The most critical gap in implementation is the failure to systematically communicate information about banned pesticides to institutions and personnel who provide pest management advice to farmers," Reddy said. He suggested a three-pronged approach involving agricultural universities, state and district agriculture departments, and private-sector advisory sources, including farmer producer organisations and cooperatives.

Sathyanarayana Raju

Culminating performance of Shashti Varna Chakra today

BENGALURU, DHNS: Shashti Varna Chakra marks a rare and meaningful artistic milestone in the life of eminent Bharatanatyam exponent Sathyanarayana Raju as he turns 60.

The journey began in 2025, when, on turning 59, Raju vowed to revive and present a lost Tanjore Quartet Varnam as taught by his guru, Narmada, through 59 free performances.

Over the year, the Varnam was presented in diverse spaces — from formal auditoria to intimate cultural gatherings — engaging a wide spectrum of artistes, rasikas, and art enthusiasts. Each performance became a living dialogue between tradition and the present, breathing fresh life into a choreography of deep historical and artistic significance.

More than a commemorative series, Shashti Varna Chakra evolved into a shared experience of learning, exchange, and artistic continuity.

The 60th and culminating performance, to be held on Tuesday at 6 pm at Meenakshi Rangamancha Auditorium, Doddakalsandra, stands as both a conclusion and a celebration, honouring lineage, discipline, and the enduring spirit of Bharatanatyam.

The performance is open to all and free of charge.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

National Dialogue: Inauguration: HS Shivaprakash, chairmanship: Mohan Kumar Kondaji, Shivarudrappa Foundation; Nayana Auditorium, Kannada Bhavan, JC Road; from 10 am onwards.

World Braille Day and Narmada Day: Guests: Meghana KT, Siddappa Magari, Chairman: Vishnubharath Alampalli, Presence: A Prakash; APS Educational Trust, NR Colony; from 10 am onwards.

Inauguration of 'Proposal Writing and Research Ethics in Science and Technology' Camp: SM Jayakar, Guests: Satyam Suvas, Praveen Kumar, KT Shanthala, N Nagaiah, Ashok D Hanjagi; Anusandhana National Research Foundation, Bangalore University, Prof VB Coutinho Seminar Hall, Bangalore University Law College; 11 am.

CULTURAL

Margashirshotsava: Veena Performance: Ramana Balachander and Team; Surabharathi, HRBR Layout; 6.30 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST
Mist
TEMPERATURES

Maximum	27.0°C
Minimum	15.0°C
Rainfall	--
Humidity	95%
Sunset (Jan 6)	6:06 pm
Sunrise (Jan 7)	6:43 am
Moonrise	8:30 am
Moonset	8:30 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

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Drop river-linking projects, seer urges govt

SIRSI (UTTARA KANNADA DIST), DHNS: Swarnavalli Mutt seer Gangadharendra Saraswathi Swami said on Monday that the union and state governments should drop the proposed Bedthi-Varada and Aghanashini-Vedavathi river-linking projects as they were a threat to the biodiversity of the Western Ghats.

Gangadharendra Sarasawathi Swami

The seer, who is also the honorary president of the Bedthi-Aghanashini valley protection committee, told reporters here that a mega public convention would be held on January 11, to oppose the projects.

The convention, to be organised at the MES college grounds in the town at 2 pm, is expected to see an attendance of over 20,000 people. "The governments are planning to prepare an extended project report on the pretext of drinking water and irrigation schemes. But it involves the construction of three mega reservoirs and huge tunnels. The projects endanger thick forests and are a threat to the ecology," he said. The pontiff said it would become inevitable for people of Uttara Kannada district to launch an agitation if the governments go ahead with the projects.

Improve enrolment, Collegiate Edu Dept tells govt degree colleges

Principals told to form admission committee

BENGALURU, DHNS

Taking a leaf out of the Department of School Education and Literacy's book, the Department of Collegiate Education has asked institutions under its purview to increase enrolment for the 2026-27 academic year.

In its circular, colleges that registered less than 75% admission in 2025-26 have been asked to take steps to fill at least 75% of the seats, while those colleges where 75% or more seats found takers have been asked to increase enrolment by 10%.

Colleges have been asked to launch 'Admission Campaign 2026-27' with the express aim of increasing the Gross Enrolment Ratio on the one hand, and driving admissions at state-run degree colleges on the other.

Principals of government degree colleges have been asked to constitute an admission committee, and carefully chalk out a calendar for the campaign. Full-time faculty members have been mandated to participate in the campaign on a rotational basis, while principals must submit a report on the campaign to the department on a Google form.

Government degree colleges have been asked to launch Admission Campaign 2026-27 with the express aim of increasing the Gross Enrolment Ratio.
DH FILE PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION

Remote classes

In a bid to improve underperforming students' proficiency in mathematics, the Department of School Education and Literacy has directed teachers to take remote lessons after school hours on the telephone once a week.

In its circular, Department of School Education Research and Training (DSERT) mentioned that 'Remote Tutoring' for underperforming students was part of its 'Ganaka Ganita' initiative.

Teachers have been asked to compile a list of students in need of extra attention, and call them once a week to improve their skills in basic mathematics. Incidentally, teachers were trained for these remote classes the previous academic year itself.

"Teachers must divide students into groups of four, and call each of them once a week," the circular states.

Teachers must document their interaction with the students, besides noting the duration of the telephone call, and submit the same to the school headmaster, who, in turn, must upload this information on the Students' Achievement Tracking System. The department has stipulated that each such remote class must be conducted for no less than 30 to 40 minutes.

Teachers have also been asked to involve parents in the initiative. The department has also sought the KR recipient ID, copies of the pass book of teachers tasked with taking remote classes.

Mysuru blast: CM announces ex gratia of Rs 5L to each victim's kin

MYSURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh each to the families of those who died in the gas cylinder explosion in front of the Mysuru Palace, on December 25, 2025.

The chief minister was speaking to reporters in Mysuru on Monday.

He said that the number of tigers in Mysuru region was increasing and hence, they were straying into human habitations. "I have instructed the officials to rescue the tigers and shift them from the region to other forests."

Replying to a question on the death of a Congress member in the recent Ballari clash, the chief minister said that he would discuss the issue with Home Minister G Parameshwara on handing over the investigation to the CID.

On change in leadership and Cabinet reshuffle, he said, "I will discuss Cabinet reshuffle issue with Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi. The Congress high command has assured to give time in January. Whenever they give time, I will go to Delhi and take a decision after holding discussions".

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah spins the potters' wheel, during the state-level Kumbara Maha Sammelana, in Mysuru, on Monday. MLC Dr Yathindra Siddaramaiah and others were present. DH PHOTO

'Anyone can break my record'

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that his record as the longest serving CM can be broken by anyone in future. "I cannot say that no one will ever break this record again. Didn't Virat Kohli break Sachin Tendulkar's records in one day international cricket? Someone else might come later and break this record. They might even present more budgets than me," he said.

Siddaramaiah said, "I never thought that I would become a CM or a minister. So, forget about records. I only wished to become an MLA. The people of Chamundeshwari made me an MLA for the first time in 1983, by funding my election. I have grown only due to the people's blessings".

Cong workers hurl chairs at Somanna during railways' event near Koppal

KOPPAL, DHNS

Union Minister of State for Railways V Somanna on Monday had to face the wrath of the followers of Koppal MP K Rajashekar Hitnal and District In-charge Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi, who hurled chairs at him, after they alleged that their leaders' names were not mentioned either in the invitation card or banner for inaugurating the railway over-pass at Hitnal in the district.

However, the minister's security personnel ensured that Somanna was not injured in the incident.

Somanna was at Hitnal village in Koppal taluk to inaugurate a railway overpass constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 27 crore to ease the movement of vehicles between Munirabad-Hitnal and Ganiger villages. However, the followers of the Congress leaders created ruckus alleging the railway officials have not followed the protocol by including the names of MP and district in-charge minister in the invitation. After raising slogans against the union minister, they later hurled chairs at him.

Somanna had to leave the event venue within five minutes after inaugurating the railway over-bridge due to the ruckus.

Later, Somanna told reporters that the entire cost of the project was borne by the Centre and there was no violation of protocol. The followers of the Congress leaders deliberately wanted to create ruckus and resorted to throwing of chairs, he said.

Congress workers hurl chairs at an event where Union Minister of State for Railways V Somanna laid the foundation stone for the construction of an overbridge at Hitnal village in Koppal district on Monday.

Urs' record: DKS extends wishes to CM

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Monday extended "heartfelt wishes" to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who will break the late D Devaraj Urs' record on Wednesday as the longest-serving chief minister in the history of Karnataka.

Speaking to reporters, Shivakumar said: "This is a very happy thing, for us and for you too. You (media) should publicise this well. I offer him heartfelt wishes. Everyone wants to achieve in life. The honourable chief minister has entered history books in the past too, and will do so in the future as well."

When asked if it would ease his way, the deputy chief minister said: "Hailing from a village, I have come this far. What more do I want? I don't have to go in search of anything. Don't try to get something from my mouth."

> **D K SHIVAKUMAR**
> Deputy Chief Minister
> "This is a very happy thing, for us and for you too. You (media) should publicise this well. I offer him heartfelt wishes.

Responding to Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy's sarcastic reference to him as "great DCM," Shivakumar said: "It's nice that Kumaraswamy has so much regard for me. Whether he says for good or bad, the fact that he called me a great DCM is good."

Shivakumar, who is also the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president, said he would visit Ballari soon. "Our party worker has died. I have obtained information from our party committee. There has to be an official report... A lot of unpleasant things have happened in the past. This incident shouldn't have happened, but it occurred. I am pained by it."

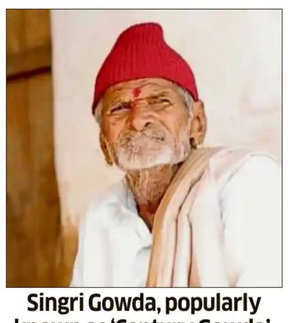
'Thithi' fame actor 'Century Gowda' passes away at 100

ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

Singri Gowda, the centenarian who achieved international acclaim for his portrayal of the grumpy patriarch 'Century Gowda' in the national award-winning film *Thithi*, passed away late on Sunday night at his residence in Singregowdanakoppalu village in Pandavapura taluk in Mandya district. He was over 100.

His family sources confirmed that the actor had been bedridden for the past few months after suffering a hip fracture from a fall. His health further declined due to age-related ailments.

His passing comes as a double blow to the *Thithi* family and fans, occurring just weeks after the death of his co-star and on-screen son, Channe Gowda (popularly known as Gaddappa), who died on November 12.



Singri Gowda, popularly known as 'Century Gowda'.

From fields to fame

A farmer by profession, Singri Gowda was discovered by director Raam Reddy and co-writer Ere Gowda for their 2015 breakout hit.

His raw, unfiltered performance, characterised by his habit of sitting on the roadside and hurling colourful, sensor-defying remarks at passersby, became the soul of the film.

While *Thithi* remains his magnum opus, he went on to act in several other films that capitalised on his unique Mandya dialect and wit.

His last appearance on the silver screen was in the 2020 film *Gudumana Avanthara*.

The signature wit

He was best known for his no-filter dialogue delivery.

While *Thithi* is a nuanced take on death, the most iconic and frequently quoted line from the movie, which even inspired a film title later where he and Channe Gowda starred together, was harsh but humorous: "Yen nin problemmu?" (What is your problem?). This dialogue became a pop-culture phenomenon in the state.

His last rites were performed at his native village on Monday afternoon, according to the family traditions.

Land records digitisation Bhu Suraksha launched

BENGALURU, DHNS: Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda flagged off the Bhu Suraksha project of digitising land records in the offices of assistant commissioners (AC) on Monday.

Gowda inaugurated the project at Bengaluru north and Bengaluru south AC offices. The project ensures that documents are stored digitally to prevent fake papers from being created.

"Citizens can apply for documents online. So far, 36.36 lakh pages have been obtained by citizens online," he said. "Out of 240 taluks, scanning of documents is completed in 70," he said.

Tiger sighted at Mysuru airport, combing operation launched

MYSURU, DHNS

A tiger was spotted at the Mysuru Airport in Mandakalli, on the outskirts of the city. A video of its movement has been captured by the personnel of the Karnataka State Industrial Security Force (KSISF). A video clip of the big cat at the airport is circulating on social media.

Officials said that KSISF patrol staff noticed the tiger moving around early on Monday morning and recorded the video. The tiger later disappeared into a bush. It can be noted that there have been frequent sighting of tigers in Mysuru and Chamarajanagar districts and some of them were rescued over the past couple of months.

Chief conservator of forests Ravi Shankar, DCF K Paramesh, ACF Ravindra, RFO Santosh Hoogar and wildlife veterinarians Dr Wasim Mirza and Dr Adarsh from the forest department conducted an inspection immediately. But, the tiger was not found.

The officials said, "The sighting of the tiger is confirmed and a search operation is underway. Fifty personnel from the Elephant Task Force and Leopard Task Force have been pressed into service for the combing operation. It is suspected that the tiger has moved out of the airport premises into the forest or farmlands".

Houses for 'illegal immigrants:' BYV warns protest

BENGALURU, DHNS: BJP state president B Y Vijayendra on Monday accused Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar of planning to provide houses to "illegal immigrants" to get upper hand in the tussle for CM post.

Speaking at a protest rally, Vijayendra said, "It was the Congress government that demolished the houses. As soon as K C Venugopal (party general secretary) warned, Siddaramaiah is trying to provide houses to illegal immigrants to save his chair. In a bid to become CM, Shivakumar made Venugopal warn the CM".

He said 38 lakh people had applied for houses and this government had not provided a "single house".

5-20% discount on KSRTC premium bus services

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has announced a 5-20% discount on its premium bus services on select routes.

The discount kicked in from Monday (January 5) and will last until further notice, most likely March 31, a senior KSRTC official said.

The decision was prompted by increased competition from private bus operators, the introduction of special trains by Indian Railways and the travel off-season, the official added.

The Corporation also charges 20% more on special buses during the peak season.

The discounts will be applicable on Rajahamsa, non-AC sleeper (including Pallakki), Airavat, Airavat Club Class, Airavat Club Class 2.0, AC sleeper, Ambaari, Ambaari Dream Class, Ambaari Utsav and FlyBus services.

Routes and faresThe discounts will apply to buses operating between Bengaluru and Mangaluru, Kundapur, Udupi/Manipal, Dharmasthala, Kukke Subrahmanya, Madikeri/Virajpet, Davangere, Shivamogga/Sagara, Chennai, Hyderabad/Secunderabad, Mumbai, Pune, Shirdi, Tirupati, Chennai, Coimbatore, Thrissur and other selected routes.

The Bengaluru-Mumbai fare (Ambaari Dream Class) will be Rs 2,000, compared to Rs 2,500 earlier, Bengaluru-Udupi/Manipal (Rs 1,450 for Ambaari Utsav as against Rs 1,620), Bengaluru-Murudeshwara (Rs 1,700 for Ambaari Utsav as against Rs 1,900) and Bengaluru-Davangere (Rs 700 for Airavat Club Class 2.0 as against Rs 740).

DH
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Gold Winner
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#NanuBhumika
Bhumika Club
is back in Namma Bengaluru
Ladies of Bengaluru, join us for the 15th Bengaluru edition of Bhumika Club and kick-start the New Year with a kids fashion show, high-energy Zumba, live music, an exciting Spin & Win contest, and the chance to make new connections—celebrate with friends and family.
Saturday, 10th Jan 3:30pm onwards
Kings Club, Block-8, Lakeside, Sir M Vishwesharaiah layout, Naagarabhaavi, Bengaluru
Scan here to Register!
For more details call: 9035036186
Free Entry
(Registrations Mandatory)
Cookery Contest | Hi-Tea | Networking
Kids Fashion Show
Give your child the spotlight! Register at the earliest.
Ms. Asha Biradar
President – WICCI Leadership Coaching Council, Karnataka
Session on Skill to Income
Chandana Lakshmikanth
Zumba Session
Anagha
Singing Performance
Celebrity Guest
Mrs. Shyam
(Tara Fame, Karna Serial, Z Kannada)
Venue Partner
KINGS CLUB
Win big in the lucky draw
1 water purifier worth ₹15000
2 VVIP passes for Prajavani Cine Sammana 2026
1 Family Dinner Voucher

Jhumri Telaiya Nagar Parishad
Near Bazar Samiti, Koderma Block,

Reference No.- ULB/NIT/JHUMRI-TELAIYA SEPTAGE/ TENDER/1910/2026 Date:- 03.01.2026

Tender Notice (7th Call)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1	Name of Work	Construction & Commissioning of Fecal Sludge Treatment Plant of Capacity 30 m3/day at Jhumri Telaiya (Jharkhand) and Operation and Maintenance for 5 years
2	Estimated Cost (INR)	Construction Cost: ₹ 4,60,47,370 Operation & Maintenance Cost: ₹1,83,39,514 Total:- ₹ 6,43,86,884
3	Bid Security (INR)	₹6,44,000/- (Rupees Six Lakhs Forty Three Thousands Only)
4	Cost of Bid Document (INR)	₹ 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only); non-refundable
5	Time of Completion	1 year of construction which comprises 9 months of construction and 3 months of defect liability period including one month of trial run and 5 years of O&M post DLP
6	Date of e-publication of tender	10.01.2026 , 15:00 Hrs
7	Document downloading start Date	10.01.2026 , 15:00 Hrs
8	Start date for seeking clarification	10.01.2026 , 15:00 Hrs
9	End date for seeking clarification	22.01.2026 , 17:00 Hrs
10	Pre bid meeting date, Time & Venue	19.01.2026 , 14:00 Hrs at Chamber of Office of Executive Officer, Nagar Parishad, Jhumri Telaiya Jharkhand – 825409
11	Bid submission end date	22.01.2026 , 17:00 Hrs
12	Last day for the submission of Bid Security, cost of bid document	22.01.2026 , 17:00 Hrs
13	Bid opening date (online)	27.01.2026 , 15:00 Hrs

Complete bid document is available on website http://Jharkhand tenders.gov.in Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.
*Bid security 1% of Bid amount.

PR 370024 Urban Development(25-26).D

Administrator
Jhumri telaiya Nagar Parishad.

CORRIGENDUM -1 FOR TENDER NOTICE NO.: CON/2025/DEC/07 DATED. 12-12-2025

Corrigendum-1 for Tender Notice No. CON/2025/DEC/07 against **Tender No. CE/CON/ K-K/EPC/2025/07** has been published. For details please visit in website **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Chief Engineer/Con/KIR DL Project/Maligaon

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Construction Organization
Serving Customers With A Smile

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Publication of E-Tender Notice No. E-GSU-ELE-2025-26-OT-GeM-02 dated 30.12.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Sl.No.	Item of Work	Approx.Value
1.	Hiring of vehicle for the official use of Officers/ supervisors of Gati Shakthi/ Bengaluru & Associate Finance over Bengaluru Division for a period of 24 month (Two years)	Rs. 3,48,25,244/-

Last date for Submission of bids :
Upto 11.00 hrs on 21.01.2026

For details log on : **www.gem.gov.in**

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer, Gati Shakti Unit, Bengaluru

PUB/792/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE - E-AUCTION
RELIABLE CASHEW COMPANY PRIVATE LIMITED IN LIQUIDATION (RCCPL) under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016

E-AUCTION
Sale of Assets under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016
Dates E-Auction: 30.01.2026 and 31.01.2026

Pursuant to the Order of the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Chennai vide its order dated 09.08.2024 in the matter of Reliable Cashew Company Private Limited (In Liquidation), the undersigned is inviting bids for sale of assets of RCCPL as a going concern sale and/or sale of the assets owned by RCCPL forming part of the liquidation estate under section 35(f) of IBC, 2016 read with Regulation 32(e) and Regulation 32A of IBBI (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016. The said Assets will be sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS ", "AS IS WHAT IS", "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" and "NO RECOURSE BASIS".**

The Sale will be done by the undersigned through the E-Auction platform at the web portal https://ibbi.baanknet.com/eauction-ibbi/home Brief particulars of the sale are as follows:

Set of Assets	Assets	Reserve Price (In INR)	EMD Amount (In INR)
	Category A-Sale of Corporate Debtor as a Going Concern Date and Time of e-auction: 30.01.2026 at 11.00 AM to 12.00 Noon		
Asset Set 1	Sale of Corporate Debtor as going Concern including non-core assets (under Regulation 32(e) read with Regulation 32A) of Liquidation Process Regulations Specific exclusion: I. Cash and cash equivalents, other bank balances ii. Proceeds from ongoing litigations	**9.710 Crores**	**0.971 Crores**
	Category B -Sale of Corporate Debtor as a Going Concern (In case no bids are received for auction under Category A) Date and Time of e-auction: 30.01.2026 at 01.00 PM to 02.00 PM		
Asset Set 2	Sale of Corporate Debtor as going concern excluding non-core assets (under Regulation 32(e) read with Regulation 32A) of Liquidation Process Regulations Specific exclusion: i. Cash and cash equivalents, other bank balances ii. Non-Core assets of the Corporate Debtor as mentioned in Category 'C'. iii. Proceeds from ongoing litigations	**4.540 Crores**	**0.454 Crores**
	Category C -Sale of Non-core assets (only land parcels) (In case no bids are received for auction under Category A) Date and Time of e-auction:30.01.2026 at 05.00 PM to 06.00 PM		
Asset Set 3	All the piece and parcel of a commercial plot at Sy No. 37-1, measuring 65.50 cents situated in Marakada Village, Mangaluru Taluk within Mangaluru City Corporation in the Registration Sub-district of Mangaluru, Karnataka	**87 Lakhs**	**8.70 Lakhs**
Asset Set 4	All the piece and parcel of commercial Site No.15, admeasuring 5.45 cents, situated in Bangra kuloor, Mangaluru	**34 Lakhs**	**3.40 Lakhs**
Asset Set 5	All the piece and parcel of commercial Site No.16, admeasuring 5.19 cents situated in Bangra kuloor, Mangaluru	**33 Lakhs**	**3.30 Lakhs**
Asset Set 6	All the piece and parcel of commercial Site No.17, admeasuring 5.19 cents situated in Bangra kuloor, Mangaluru	**33 Lakhs**	**3.30 Lakhs**
Asset Set 7	All the piece and parcel of commercial Site No.24, admeasuring 5 cents situated in Bangra kuloor, Mangaluru	**31 Lakhs**	**3.10 Lakhs**
Asset Set 8	All the piece and parcel of commercial Site No.25, admeasuring 5.30 cents situated in Bangra kuloor, Mangaluru	**33 Lakhs**	**3.30 Lakhs**
Asset Set 9	All the piece and parcel of commercial Site No.26, admeasuring 6.20 cents situated in Bangra kuloor, Mangaluru	**39 Lakhs**	**3.90 Lakhs**
Asset Set 10	All the piece and parcel of a commercial plot at R.S.No.110/3, measuring 3.17 Acres situated in Bramhawar, Udupi	**2.50 Crores**	**0.250 Crores**
	Category D Sale of Movable Assets at leased premises (only if no bids are received from Asset Category A or B) Date and Time of e-auction: 31.01.2026 at 11.00 AM to 12.00 Noon		
Asset Set 11	Plant and Machinery together with a Vehicle located at D. No, 12/92 and 12/93, Padavu Post, Shakti Nagar, Kulshekar, Mangaluru, Karnataka	**44.00 Lakhs**	**4.40 Lakhs**
	Category E Sale of assets individual units (Movable and immovable properties) (In case no bids are received for auction under Category A or B) Date and Time of e-auction: 31.01.2026 at 01.00 PM to 02.00 PM		
Asset Set 12	**Industrial Property** (Movable and immovable assets) All the piece and parcels of the land measuring 100 cents, situated at, S.No.291/9P1, Kolalgiri, Uppoor Village, Udupi Taluk, Karnataka together with building, plant and machinery, furniture & fixtures, and vehicles.	**1.93 Crores**	**0.193 Crores**
	Category F-Sale of movable Assets (In case no bids are received for auction under Asset Set 12) Date and Time of e-auction: 31.01.2026 at 03.00 PM to 04.00 PM		
Asset Set 13	**Machineries and movable Assets** Machineries at S.No.291/9P1, Kolalgiri, Uppoor Village, Udupi Taluk, Karnataka along with all movable assets and vehicles	**29.00 Lakhs**	**2.90 Lakhs**
	Category G Sale of Immovable Assets (E-auction only if Asset set 13 gets bids and results in a successful auction) Date and Time of e-auction: 31.01.2026 at 05.00 PM to 06.00 PM		
Asset Set 14	**Immovable Asset (Land & Building)** All the piece and parcels of the land measuring 100 cents, situated at, S.No.291/9P1, Kolalgiri, Uppoor Village, Udupi Taluk , Karnataka together with building	**1.64 Crores**	**0.164 Crores**

1. This Sale Notice shall be read with the Complete 'e-Auction Process Information Document' (Process Document) containing details of the Assets, eligibility, E-Auction Bid Form etc which is available at https://ibbi.baanknet.com/eauction-ibbi/home or can contact the Liquidator for further details.
2. Please note that in case the E-Auction for **Asset Category A or B** does not materialise for want of bidders etc, the assets shall be sold separately as per the above Table. The liquidator reserves the right to cancel the e-auction of any or all Assets Set under any or all category(ies) and /or set of assets being sold in the e-auction. The sale of Assets under this category i.e. going concern sale is subject to approval of the Adjudicating Authority.
3. Interested bidders for the respective Category(ies) and/or Set of Asset(s) are required to submit the eligibility documents and EMD on or before **27.01.2026** as provided in the Process Document through the electronic platform only
4. The Liquidator reserves the right to amend the key terms of the sale process including timelines for any or all Category(ies) and/or Set of Assets(s) being sold in the e-auction, to the extent permissible under the applicable laws and regulations. Any information about the amendments/ extensions of any of the timelines with respect to the sale process timelines for any or all category(ies) and/or Set of Assets (s) will be available on the e-auction website and communicated to the Eligible/Qualified/Successful Bidder(s).
5. Prospective bidders shall deposit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) through the Baanknet auction platform only. If the bidder is found ineligible, EMD shall be liable to be forfeited.
6. Nothing contained herein shall constitute a binding offer or commitment for sale of assets of the Company including Sale of the Company as a whole, on a going concern basis.

Please scan the QR code below to download a Teaser Document.

Date: 05.01.2026
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/-
Ravindra Beleyur
Liquidator
Reliable Cashew Company Private Limited in Liquidation
'428,19th B Cross, 3rd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru 11
email:Reliable_Cashew_CIRP@beleyur.com
Phone: 080 26540193 Mobile: +91 94481 46963

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, लघु सिंचाई रूपांकण प्रमण्डल, दुमका शिविर–देवघर

अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

e-Tender Reference No. : W.R.D./M.I.D.D.D.C.DEOGHAR/F_2-03/2025-26 (3rd Call) **Dated :- 05/01/2026**

क्रम सं०	योजना का नाम	प्रखण्ड	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में)	अग्रधन की राशि (रूपये में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (रूपये में)	वेबसाईट में ई–निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय	वेबसाईट में ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	ई–निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी के कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता	ई–निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का मोबाईल नम्बर	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	पाण्डेय डुमरिया जोरिया पर श्रृंखलाबद्ध चेकडैम निर्माण	पालोजोरी	1,35,79,566.00	2,72,000.00	10,000.00	07/01/2026 (पूर्वाह्न 10.30 बजे से)	14/01/2026 (अपराह्न 05.00 बजे तक)	15/01/2026 (अपराह्न 05.00 बजे)	कार्यपालक अभियंता लघु सिंचाई रूपांकण प्रमण्डल दुमका शिविर देवघर	7257990512 10 A.M से 5 P.M	11 माह

(1) केवल ई–निविदा ही स्वीकार किया जायेगा। (2) निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा ही स्वीकार्य होगी।
(3) निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बन्द कर दिया जाता है तो सारी जवाबदेही सम्बन्धित निविदादाता की होगी।
(4) प्राक्कलित राशि घट बढ़ सकती है। अग्रधन की राशि परिमाण विपत्र की राशि के अनुसार होगी।
(5) राज्य सरकार के द्वारा निर्गत सभी अद्यतन आदेश/परिपत्र लागू होंगे। (6) विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in में लॉग ऑन करें।

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता
लघु सिंचाई रूपांकण प्रमण्डल,
दुमका शिविर–देवघर

PR370064 Water Resource(25-26)#D

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL
(Affiliated to CBSE New Delhi)
K KAMARAJ ROAD, BANGALORE-560042
Tele No : 080-25581238, www.apsbangalore.edu.in

JOB OPPORTUNITIES ON TERM BASED (FOUR ACADEMIC YEARS)
ADDENDUM TO ADVT DATED 04 JAN 2026

Post & Subject	
TGT Computer Science	Visit school website for qualification and other detail.
PRT Computer Science	

BIHAR STATE MILK CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION LTD.
H.O:- DAIRY DEVELOPMENT COMPLEX; POST:- B. V. College, Patna-800014 (BIHAR)
Phone No. - 0612-2228306,2224083, 2228953, 2220387 Web- www.sudha.coop Email:- marketingcomfed@gmail.com

COMFED: MKTG: 30 **DATE: 05.01.2026**

TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Bid for hiring a reputed established and experienced firm/company for manufacturing & packaging of "SUDHA" brand UHT Cream, flavoured drinks, fruit juices, milk shakes, etc.

Interested parties can participate in the bidding process as per following time schedules/date:

S.N.	Particulars	Scheduled Date & Time
1.	Tender Documents availability	06.01.2026 & onwards
2.	Tender Bid Queries through E-mail by Bidder on - marketingcomfed@gmail.com	06.01.2026 to 12.01.2026
3.	Pre-Bid Meeting Date, Time & Place	13.01.2026 at 11.00 am. Bihar State Milk Co-operative Federation Ltd. Dairy Developmen Complex, PO - BV College Patna, Bihar - 800014
4.	Final Tender Document Upload by COMFED with amendment if any.	15.01.2026
5.	Last Date for Tender Submission	28.01.2026 latest by 5.30 P.M.
6.	Technical Bid Opening Date	29.01.2026 at 11.00 A.M.
7.	Bid Validity	180 days

The bidders are advised to download the detailed terms and conditions and operational requirements from our website: **www.sudha.coop.**
The undersigned reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reasons before the award of the work.

Managing Director

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

THE FOLLOWING CORRIGENDA ARE PUBLISHED IN IREPS WEBSITE. FIRMS ARE REQUESTED TO LOGIN TO **http://www.ireps.gov.in-login>e.tender-goods & services** (new) AND QUOTE AGAINST THESE TENDERS. MANUAL QUOTATIONS WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED FOR THESE TENDERS. CLOSING TIME FOR ALL TENDERS 14:30 HOURS

(1) TENDER NOTICE NO. E / 28-2025, ITEM SL NO. 14, **TENDER NO. 03255661** DUE DATE: **30.01.2026,** ITEM: RC FOR MANUFACTURE AND SUPPLY OF PRETENSIONED PRESTRESSED CONCRETE (PSC) SLEEPER

FIELD NAME: DOCUMENT	**EXISTING:** NIL	**READ AS: ADDITION:** MODIFICATIONS IN THE SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT

(2) TENDER NOTICE NO. E / 29-2025, ITEM SL NO. 1, **TENDER NO. 03255640** DUE DATE: **13.01.2026,** ITEM: RC FOR MANUFACTURE AND SUPPLY OF PRETENSIONED PRESTRESSED CONCRETE (PSC) BRIDGE STRAIGHT WIDER SLEEPERS

FIELD NAME: TENDER CLOSING DATE TIME	**EXISTING:** 13 / 01 / 2026 14:30	**READ AS: 19 / 01 / 2026 14:30**
FIELD NAME: DOCUMENTS	**EXISTING:** NIL	**READ AS: ADDITION:** MODIFICATIONS IN THE SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT

(3) TENDER NOTICE NO. E / 28-2025, ITEM SL NO. 1, **TENDER NO. 03255638** DUE DATE: **05.01.2026,** ITEM: RC FOR MANUFACTURE AND SUPPLY OF PRETENSIONED PRESTRESSED CONCRETE (PSC) 1 IN 8.5 SWITCHES

FIELD NAME: TENDER CLOSING DATE TIME	**EXISTING:** 05 / 01 / 2026 14:30	**READ AS: 07 / 01 / 2026 14:30**
FIELD NAME: DOCUMENTS	**EXISTING:** NIL	**READ AS: ADDITION:** MODIFICATIONS IN THE SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT

(4) TENDER NOTICE NO. E / 26-2025, ITEM SL NO. 10, **TENDER NO. 03255001** TP DUE DATE: **05/01/2026,** ITEM: MANUFACTURE AND SUPPLY OF MONO-BLOCK PRE-STRESSED CONCRETE LINE SLEEPER

FIELD NAME: **TENDER** CLOSING DATE TIME	**EXISTING:** 05 / 01 / 2026 14:30	**READ AS: 12 / 01 / 2026 14:30**
TENDER TITLE	**EXISTING:** NIL	**READ AS:** RATE CONTRACT FOR MANUFACTURE AND SUPPLY OF MONO-BLOCK PRE-STRESSED CONCRETE LINE SLEEPER (PRETENSIONED TYPE) CONFORMING TO RDSO DRG. NO. T-8746

PRINCIPAL CHIEF MATERIALS MANAGER

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that **Scania Commercial Vehicles India Private Limited**, having its registered office at Plot No. 64-66, 88-97, Narasapura KIADB Industrial Area, Achhatanahalli Village, Narasapura Hobli, Kolar, Karnataka, India – 563133 ('Owner') being the absolute owner of the immovable property bearing Plot Nos. 61, 62, 63 P, 63 Part, 64, 65, 66, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88 to 97 located in Narasapura Industrial Area, Kolar [formed out of Survey Nos. Parts of 135, 140, 141, 159, 162P, 170, 171, 20, 31, 30/1, 32P, 33, 33P and 34 within the limits of Achatanahalli Village, Narasapura Hobli, Kolar Taluk and Kolar District], bearing Khata No. 207/ E-Khata No. 151900700900120551, measuring 1,44,428.71 Square Meters/ 35 Acres 27.56 Guntas along with building constructed thereon ('**Property**') has lost/misplaced the following original documents in connection with the Property ('**Original Documents**'):

1. Lease cum Sale Agreement dated 07.03.2012 (Registered on 20.03.2012 as Document No. KLR-1-06917-2011-12, Book-1, stored in C.D. No. KLRD92, at the office of the Sub Registrar, Kolar) entered between Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board and Scania Commercial Vehicles India Private Limited;
2. Allotment Letter dated 13.04.2012 bearing No. IADB/DO-II/96/2012-13 issued by the Development Officer & Executive Engineer-II, Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board in favour of Scania Commercial Vehicles India Private Limited;
3. Allotment Letter dated 27.08.2012 bearing No. KIADB/DO-II/295/1081/2012-13 issued by the Development Officer & Executive Engineer – II, Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board in favour of Scania Commercial Vehicles India Private Limited;
4. Allotment Letter dated 18.09.2012 bearing No. IADB/DO-II/1275/2012-13 issued by the Development Officer & Executive Engineer – II, Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board in favour of Scania Commercial Vehicles India Private Limited;
5. Possession Certificate dated 28.09.2012 bearing No. IADB/__/D.O-II/1355/2012-13 issued by the Assistant Engineer, Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board along with the sketch;
6. Possession Certificate dated 28.09.2012 bearing No. IADB/D.O-II/1356/2012-13 issued by the Assistant Engineer, Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board along with the sketch;
7. Lease cum Sale Agreement dated 12.10.2012 (Registered on 18.10.2012 as Document No. KLR-1-05961-2012-13, Book-1, stored in C.D. No. KLRD106, at the office of the Sub Registrar, Kolar) entered between Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board and Scania Commercial Vehicles India Private Limited;
8. Occupancy Certificate dated 06.05.2013 bearing No. KIADB/DO-II/321/2013-14 issued by the Development Officer & Executive Engineer, Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board;
9. Occupancy Certificate dated 15.10.2013 bearing No. KIADB/DO-II/1765/2013-14 issued by the Development Officer & Executive Engineer, Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board; and
10. Occupancy Certificate dated 05.08.2014 bearing No. KIADB/DO-II/1251/2014-15 issued by the Development Officer & Executive Engineer, Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board.

Despite best efforts, the Owner is unable to trace the Original Documents for which Police Complaint intimating the loss have been filed with Karnataka State Police, Kolar on 17.01.2022 and 30.12.2025 vide E-Lost Reports bearing Reference Nos. 1983634/2025, 1983638/2025, 1983643/2025, 1983650/2025, 1983657/2025, 1983670/2025, 0137630/2022, 1983679/2025, 1983683/2025 and 1983687/2025. Members of the public are hereby notified that in the event any person/s has/have found/ discovered/ is in custody of the Original Documents, such person/s is/are hereby requested to return the Original Documents to the undersigned, at the below-mentioned address.

Ms. Brijita Prakash, Partner
J. Sagar Associates, Advocates & Solicitors,
18th Floor, SKAV 909, No. 9/1, Residency Road,
Richmond Circle, Bengaluru – 560025, Karnataka, India.
Ph. 080-43503600/080-43503676. Email: brijita.prakash@jsalaw.com
Date: 06.01.2026, Place: Bengaluru

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Publication of E-TENDER NOTICE No. B/TRD.2025-26/35 Dt: 30.12.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Item of work	Approx.Value
Shifting of 220/25kv Traction Transformers between BID Traction Sub-Station and WFD Traction Sub-Station Including dismantling, transportation, eraction and commissioning	Rs. 46,87,992.00/-

Last date for Submission of bids :
Upto 15.00 hrs on 20.01.2026

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, Bengaluru

PUB/793/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the **UTS** Moblie App from **Google Play Store** for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Publication of Corrigendum to Tender notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/155/2025 dated 04.11.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Item of Work	Approx.Value
PROVIDING PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES for Development of Vande Bharat sleeper trains maintenance depot at Thanisandra Railway Station and Major upgradation of Tumakuru Railway station through Engineering Procurement & Construction (EPC) contracts.	Rs. 10,95,43,438/-

(Tender Ref. No. PMS-TK-SNT-DEV-VANDEBHRAT)

Date of Closing	
Existing	**Modified**
05.01.2026 (15.00 Hrs.)	20.01.2026 (15.00 Hrs.)

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works, Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/791/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the **UTS** Moblie App from **Google Play Store** for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt. - Saran), Bihar 841221

Open E-Tender Notice No.:- RWP/STORES/ WORKS/ADVT/25-26/14, Dated : 03/01/2026 Tender No. RWP_S_CUT_SEMIAUTO_25-26, Due on 23/02/2026, "Principal Chief Materials Manager/Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and on behalf of the **President of India** invites **online "e-Open Tender",** through Indian Railways E-Procurement Portal (IREPS) www.ireps.gov.in for **Supply Installation, Commissioning, Maintenance and Operation of SEMI Automated Wheel Cutting and Rail Cutting System and Transportation of Cut Scrap from SPC BAY to Melt Shop. 1. Name of work with its location, Qty and completion period:** Supply Installation, Commissioning, Maintenance and Operation of SEMI Automated Wheel Cutting and Rail Cutting System and Transportation of Cut Scrap from SPC BAY to Melt Shop. (Please refer uploaded tender document). **Completion period :** 36 months from the date of issuance of LOA. **2. Approx cost of the work:** Rs. 10,58,37,480/-, **3. Earnest Money to be Deposited :** Rs. 6,79,200/-, **4. Pre-Bid Conference Date/Time/ Place :** 27/01/2026/11:00 Hrs./ Office of the PRINCIPAL CHIEF MATERIAL MANAGER, Conference Hall at the 1st Floor, Administrative Building, Rail Wheel Plant, Bela, Dist - Saran, 841221 (BIHAR). **5. Tender closing date and time :** 23.02.2026 up to 14:00 hrs. **6. Website particulars, Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.:** For full details and submission of bid kindly visit Portal (IREPS) www.ireps.gov.in. The prospective firms/ bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with IREPS Portal (www.ireps.gov.in) for updates including **Addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation** with respect to the above tender because no such any notice/ information concerned that shall be published in newspaper.

Principal Chief Materials Manager/RWP/Bela
RWP/CPRO/Advt/2025-26/96

EASTERN RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice No. SCPH_R_25-28, dated: 02.01.2026. Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer/C, Eastern Railway Workshop, Kanchrapara, Carriage Complex, North 24 Parganas, PO. Kanchrapara, Pin. 743145 invites Open tender for the following work. **Tender Notice No. : SCPH_R_25-28. Name of work and its location:** Cleaning, painting and handling of 144000 nos. of springs (Axle Guide & Bolster) of Conventional, LHB, DEMU/ MEMU/EMU Trailer and Motor Coaches at Carriage Complex/Kanchrapara for a period of 03 (Three) years. **Approx. cost of the work:** ₹ 56,81,376.00 including GST; **Tender Document Cost (TDC):** Nil; **Website from where the tender documents will be available:** Complete set of tender document is available on the Indian Railways e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from 02.01.2026 to 24.01.2026 till 11.00 hrs; **Bid Security to be deposited:** ₹ 1,13,700.00; **Completion period of the work:** 03 (three) Years. **Advertisement Period:** 02.01.2026 to 24.01.2026 till 11.00 hrs. **Offer Submission Period:**15 (Fifteen) days prior to 24.01.2026 till 11.00 hrs. **Date & Time of closing of tender:** 24.01.2026 till 11.00 hrs. **Validity of the tender:** 66 (Sixty six) days. **Date & Time for opening of Tender:** The tender will be opened on and after 12.00 hrs. on 24.01.2026.

MISC-348/2025-26

Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

Metro Railway, Kolkata

e-Tender is invited by Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway for the following work: **Name of work:** "Rehabilitation of various structural elements of viaduct portions of blue line from km (-)6.23 (KDSW) to km 0.0 (KDMI) and from km 16.45 (KMUK) to km 25.135 (KKVS) of Metro Railway, Kolkata." **Approx. Cost of Work:** Rs. 43,45,43,364.93, **Earnest Money :** Rs. 23,22,700.00, **Completion Period:** 12 (Twelve) Months, **Date and Time of Closing:** 30.01.2026 at 12:00 Hrs. The Tender Document and other details can be obtained from the website **www.ireps.gov.in** Amendments/Corrigendum, if any, would be uploaded only on the website.

Abridged e-Tender Notice No. : Civil-2544-2025-(Open)

Follow us at: /metrorailwaykol /metrorailkolkata

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
Tender Notice No. TBM-SG-CN2025-26-09-OT Dated: 02 / 01 / 2026
(SINGLE PACKET SYSTEM)

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Tambaram invites e-tender for the following works:

Item No.	Name of the work				
1	Provision of Telecommunication arrangements in connection with conversion and Maintenance facilities of ROH Depot at TNP Station in Chennai Division				
Item No.	Cash value in ₹	Bid Security (EMD) ₹	Last Date and time of submission of e-Tender through IREPS site	Cost of Tender Document (₹)	Period of Completion in month(s)
(1)	**(2)**	**(3)**	**(4)**	**(5)**	**(6)**
1	**41,47,058.78**	**83,000.00**	**24/01/2026**	**0**	**Six (06)**

Tenderers can view full details of tender and submit their offer at the e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in** of Indian Railways.
The supply/work is subject to GST rules applicable from time to time.

Dy. CHIEF SIGNAL & TELECOMMUNICATION ENGINEER / CONSTRUCTION / S.Rly., TAMBARAM, CHENNAI - 600 045.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that **Scania Commercial Vehicles India Private Limited**, having its registered office at Plot No. 64-66, 88-97, Narasapura KIADB Industrial Area, Achhatanahalli Village, Narasapura Hobli, Kolar, Karnataka, India – 563133 ('Owner') being the absolute owner of the immovable property being vacant & undeveloped land converted for commercial & industrial purpose and bearing Survey No. 139, situated at Achatanahalli Village, Narasapura Hobli, Kolar Taluk, Kolar District, measuring 02 Acres 14 Guntas ('**Property**') has lost/misplaced the following original documents in connection with the Property ('**Original Documents**'):

1. Sale Deed dated 16.05.1977 (Registered as Document No. 516/1977-78, Book-I, Volume No. 1611, at Pages 93 to 96, at the office of the Sub Registrar, Kolar) executed by Mr. A. K. Nanjappa, son of Mr. Motappa in favour of Mr. Ramappa, son of Mr. Honoorappa in connection with property bearing Survey No. 139, measuring 01 Acre 07 Guntas;
2. Sale Deed dated 25.08.1997 (Registered as Document No. 1539/1997-98, Book-I, Volume No. 2307, at Pages 61 to 63, at the office of the Sub Registrar, Kolar) executed by Mrs. Gowramma, wife of Late Ramappa in favour of Mr. Narayanappa, son of Late Honoorappa in connection with property bearing Survey No. 139, measuring 01 Acre 07 Guntas;
3. Sale Deed dated 15.04.1998 (Registered as Document No. 129/1998-99, Book-I, Volume No. 2333, at Pages 186 to 188, at the office of the Sub Registrar, Kolar) executed by Mr. Narayanappa, son of Late Honoorappa and his sons Mr. Anjinappa and Mr. N. Nagaraj in favour of Mrs. R. Manjula, wife of Mr. M. Ramachandra in connection with property bearing Survey No. 139, measuring 01 Acre 07 Guntas;
4. Sale Deed dated 26.07.1999 (Registered as Document No. 1246/1999-2000, Book-I, Volume No. 2396, at Pages 211 to 213, at the office of the Sub Registrar, Kolar) executed by Mrs. R. Manjula, wife of Mr. M. Ramachandra in favour of Mr. P. L. Bhanuprakash, son of Mr. P. S L. Gupta in connection with property bearing Survey No. 139, measuring 01 Acre 07 Guntas;
5. Sale Deed dated 16.05.1977 (Registered as Document No. 515/1977-78, Book-I, Volume No. 1612, at Pages 33 to 34, at the office of the Sub Registrar, Kolar) executed by Mr. A. K. Nanjappa, son of Mr. Motappa in favour of Mr. Narayanappa, son of Mr. Honoorappa in connection with property bearing Survey No. 139 measuring 01 Acre 07 Guntas;
6. Sale Deed dated 24.04.1985 (Registered as Document No. 308/1985-86, Book-I, Volume No. 1844, at Pages 217 to 219, at the office of the Sub Registrar, Kolar) executed by Mr. Narayanappa, son of Mr. Honoorappa in favour of Mrs. Nirmalamma, daughter of Mr. Narayanappa in connection with property bearing Survey No. 139 measuring 01 Acre 07 Guntas;
7. Sale Deed dated 15.10.1999 (Registered as Document No. 2163/1999-2000, Book-I, Volume No. 2409, at Pages 195 to 197, at the office of the Sub Registrar, Kolar) executed by Mrs. Nirmalamma, daughter of Mr. Narayanappa along with her husband Mr. N. Devaraju and children Master Anand Kumar and Ms. Netravathi, minors (represented by their mother and minor guardian Mrs. Nirmalamma) in favour of Mr. P. L. Bhanuprakash, son of Mr. P. S L. Gupta in connection with property bearing Survey No. 139 measuring 01 Acre 07 Guntas;
8. Sale Deed dated 07.08.2000 (Registered as Document No. 1428/2000-01, Book-I, Volume No. 2446, at Pages 165 to 168, at the office of the Sub Registrar, Kolar) executed by Mr. P. L. Bhanuprakash, son of Mr. P. S L. Gupta in favour of Mr. C. Venkatesh and Mr. C. Ramachandra, both sons of Late Chinnappa Naidu in connection with property bearing Survey No. 139 measuring 02 Acre 14 Guntas;
9. Official Memorandum dated 23.01.2012 bearing No. ALN.SR(K)50/2011-12 issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Kolar District in connection with the conversion of property bearing Survey No. 139 measuring 02 Acre 14 Guntas; and
10. Sale Deed dated 23.03.2013 (Registered as Document No. KLR-1-10973-2012-13, Book-1, C.D. No. KLRD119, at the office of the Sub Registrar, Kolar) executed by Mr. C. Venkatesh and Mr. C. Ramachandra, both sons of Late Chinnappa Naidu in favour of Scania Commercial Vehicles India Private Limited in connection with property bearing Survey No. 139 measuring 02 Acre 14 Guntas.

Despite best efforts, the Owner is unable to trace the Original Documents for which Police Complaint intimating the loss has been filed with Karnataka State Police, Kolar on 30.12.2025 vide E-Lost Reports bearing Reference Nos. 1983318/2025, 1983355/2025, 1983423/2025, 1983519/2025, 1983528/2025, 1983586/2025, 1983594/2025, 1983607/2025, 1983613/2025 and 1983622/2025. Members of the public are hereby notified that in the event any person/s has/have found/ discovered/ is in custody of the Original Documents, such person/s is/are hereby requested to return the Original Documents to the undersigned, at the below-mentioned address.

Ms. Brijita Prakash, Partner
J. Sagar Associates, Advocates & Solicitors,
18th Floor, SKAV 909, No. 9/1, Residency Road,
Richmond Circle, Bengaluru – 560025, Karnataka, India.
Ph. 080-43503600/080-43503676. Email: brijita.prakash@jsalaw.com
Date: 06.01.2026, Place: Bengaluru

Sinking sanctuary?: Bar-headed geese leave lake near Gadag earlier than usual

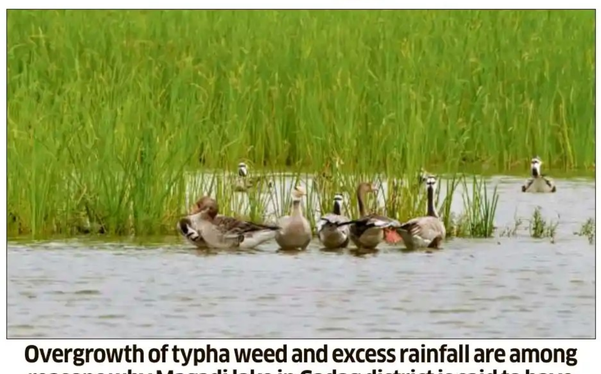
Fewer birds visit winter home this year; excess weeds among causes

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

The migratory bar-headed geese are abandoning their winter home Magadi lake in Gadag en masse, even before the season has concluded.

Only 700 to 1,200 birds were to be seen here on Sunday. In a normal year, an estimated 7,000 birds arrive at this lake in November and stay till the last week of March.

Multiple factors, including overgrowth of typha, a water weed, excess rainfall during monsoon and threats from feral dogs are said to have caused disruption to these birds, which migrate from Mongolia, Tibet and parts of China, crossing the heights of Mt Everest to escape extreme cold.



Overgrowth of typha weed and excess rainfall are among reasons why Magadi lake in Gadag district is said to have attracted fewer bar-headed geese this season.
PHOTO: MANJUNATH NAYAK

Ramsar site

Keeping in mind the importance of this roosting site, the lake was designated a Ramsar site in 2024. The lake's shallow waters and the abundance of green gram crops in the surrounding fields once attracted thousands of them, making it one of south India's largest congregations of bar-headed geese.

Researcher Manjunath Nayak, who has been recording the arrival of these birds for the past 12 years, says Magadi lake is losing its reputation as a migratory destination.

"We have recorded more than 12,000 geese in a single season. However, over the last 6 to 7 years, the numbers have not crossed 6,000. The first fortnight of November 2025 saw the arrival of over 5,000 geese, but on Sunday (January 4), there were hardly a few hundred roosting at the lake. This is worrying," he said.

New breeding place

A significant number of birds have shifted to Shettikeri lake, 6 km from the Magadi bird sanctuary.

Manjunath said Magadi lake is witnessing the growth of several weeds, including rapidly spreading typha and water hyacinth. These weeds are reducing the space for birds.

Unlike previous years, the water is no longer shallow — a prerequisite for the geese to rest. "Last monsoon, the region received above-normal rainfall, resulting in the lake remaining full to the brim," he said.

Polluted water

Locals said excessive use of water for domestic purposes like washing clothes and cattle has polluted the lake, resulting the birds deserting it. Manjunath said, on average, 5 to 8 geese die every year after being attacked by feral dogs near the lake.

Ramappa Poojar, the Shirahatti range forest officer, confirmed the increase in weed growth, following desilting work carried out by villagers.

"We had requested the gram panchayat to de-weed the water body. As the forest department did not have additional funds, we could not take up de-weeding," he said.

'Dogs no threat'

However, Poojar denied that feral dogs posed a serious threat, as the department records 3 to 5 bird deaths annually due to exhaustion rather than predation.

Santosh Kumar, deputy conservator of forests, Gadag, said the movement of geese from Magadi lake to Shettikeri lake was not a cause for concern.

"Such a thing has been recorded earlier as well. The birds will return to Magadi lake and there is no need to worry. We are monitoring this Ramsar site," he said.

Govt moves to operationalise unified transport watchdog for B'luru

BMLTA, from Page 1

Hence, some experts view the BMLTA as dead on arrival.

Sathya Arikutharam, an independent mobility expert, said draft rule 24 of the BMLTA is fundamentally wrong. "All urban mobility decisions and projects announced after the Act came into force must necessarily seek the BMLTA Section 19 approval," he said, adding that the government deliberately delayed the establishment of the BMLTA. "It is now trying both to escape scrutiny and achieve deemed approval status for its many flawed projects through this rule."

There was a long demand to operationalise the BMLTA, especially after the state government announced the tunnel road project, which was not part of the Comprehensive Mobility Plan of 2020. Experts believed that with BMLTA in place, the tunnel road would not stand scrutiny for its faulty design and long-term goals.

Tushar Girinath, Additional Chief Secretary of the Urban Development Department, said the rules can only be enforced prospectively.

"We cannot seek approval of projects from the BMLTA that are already approved by the government in the interest of the public," he said, adding that the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) will continue to be the secretariat of the BMLTA and would be assisted by an expert committee.

The BMLTA Act was passed by the BJP government in December 2022 and published in the Karnataka gazette on January 12, 2023. During its term, no rules were published, making the Act ineffective. The Congress government was under pressure to operationalise the BMLTA as the Centre had made it mandatory for the approval of future metro lines.

SC rejects bail ...

Supreme Court, From Page 1

The court found that Khalid and Imam stand on a different footing and hence it becomes the court's duty to examine the bail pleas individually to see whether pre-trial liberty is attracted.

The court noted the record disclosed that all the appellants do not stand on equal footing as regards culpability.

"The hierarchy of participation requires the court to assess each application individually," the bench said, asserting that Article 21 of the Constitution required the State to justify prolonged pre-trial custody.

In the case of the alleged masterminds Imam and Khalid, the bench noted, the prosecution material comprised direct, corroborative, and contemporaneous evidence, including recoveries, digital communication trails, and statements indicative of managerial responsibility.

"In contrast, the involvement of others is sought to be established mainly through associative or peripheral conduct," the bench said.

The court emphasised the continued incarceration affected the guarantee under Article 21. It pointed out the statutory scheme of UAPA extends culpability to preparatory parts before violence is committed.

"Section 43D(5) is a conscious departure from the regular bail statute. However, it does not exclude judicial scrutiny," the bench said.

The court stressed, it would lead to an interpretive absurdity, if a special statute enacted by Parliament to address offences implicating the sovereignty, integrity, and security of the State would stand effectively neutralised by the mere passage of time, even at a pre-trial stage.

The court had reserved the judgment on December 10, after hearing in detail the arguments from Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, Additional Solicitor General S V Raju for Delhi police and senior advocates Kapil Sibal, Abhishek Singhvi, Siddhartha Dave, Salman Khurshid and Sidharth Luthra for the accused persons.

The Delhi police argued that the February 2020 riots were not something spontaneous, but an "orchestrated, pre-planned and well-designed" attack on India's sovereignty.

Siddu beats Urs, to be state's longest-serving CM

Siddaramaiah, from Page 1

The saffron brigade accuses him of minority appeasement too citing higher budget allocations to minorities, while diverting funds meant for SCs and STs.

A strong criticism is however of his populism. Freebies are a "burden" on the exchequer and an impediment to development, say Opposition parties. Unlike Urs, who chose to end social inequalities through laws, Siddaramaiah embraced populism to redistribute income through annual budgets.

Last February, Siddaramaiah created another record by tabling his 16th state Budget (outlay of Rs 4.09 alakh crore). He allocated Rs 51,000 crore for the five flagship guarantee schemes – Gruha Lakshmi (monthly stipend to woman heads of households), Gruha Jyoti (free electricity up t0 to 200 units per household), Anna Bhagya (free rice scheme for BPL families), Shakti (free bus travel for women) and Yuva Nidhi (stipend for unemployed graduates).

During his first stint too, Siddaramaiah set the 'Bhagya' schemes rolling – Anna Bhagya (free rice) for a hunger-free Karnataka, Ksheera Bhagya (free milk to school children) to fight malnutrition, Krishi Bhagya (farm ponds) to fight drought, Arogya Bhagya (universal health coverage) and Anila Bhagya – free LPG connection. This helped the Congress "outsider" (he quit JD-S and joined Congress in 2007) gain appeal among the masses and carve a decisive leadership within the party.

Amid the ongoing power tussle between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar over the much-speculated 50:50 power-sharing pact, Siddaramaiah's mass appeal as the uncontested Ahinda leader is weighing heavy on Shivakumar's CM aspirations. Shivakumar, known for his organisational prowess, falls short in mass appeal among the Ahinda – the Congress' traditional votebase.

Quizzed over the record, Siddaramaiah said, "This was possible with people's blessings. But don't compare me with a tall leader like Urs. I am happy he too hailed from Mysuru. I started my career as a taluk board member and never imagined I would become a chief minister though I contested 13 elections and won eight."

A cowherd from Siddaramanahundi village in Mysuru who trained to be a lawyer and saw a meteoric rise in politics, Siddaramaiah, at 77, says, "Records are meant to be broken and some day, my records will be broken too."

Union minister and JD(S) leader H D Kumaraswamy slammed Siddaramaiah saying his record had no "merit".

"Looking at the condition of the state, his record deserves to be buried. His tenure is a textbook example of bad governance. Karnataka, which once stood for good governance, has today become an example of inefficiency and poor administration. Corruption, murder, extortion, drug mafia activities and honour killings have continued unabated. But Siddaramaiah government is focussed on setting records. Officers are reduced to slaves. Forget breaking Urs' record, Siddaramaiah will be the last chief minister of the Congress party in this state. Voters will teach Congress a lesson," he warned.

Former minister and BJP MLA S Suresh Kumar recalls Devaraj Urs' tenure as the chief minister and says the land reforms gave strength to the backward classes and that was the hallmark of his administration. "Siddaramaiah sees himself as a worthy successor to Urs but there has been no hallmark of his administration. Even the guarantee schemes seem to be the Congress brainchild. Ramakrishna Hegde left a mark in Panchayati Raj reforms, S M Krishna is synonymous with IT and urbanisation. Urs was a Congress-bred leader and was a man of political sagacity. Siddaramaiah came from the Janata Dal and enjoyed power as the LOP and CM for two terms each in the Congress."

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Arms Act cases in state spike by close to 46% in a year

Arms Act, from Page 1

"Unless the applicant proves that there is a threat to his life, the applications are not approved. In a few cases where the weapon holds a sentimental value, we do permit them to keep it. Otherwise, we reject most other applications," the officials said.

Clean-up drive

Recently, the Bengaluru city police also conducted a clean-up drive and cancelled close to 1,180 gun licences. While the police point to increased checks, sources said smuggling arms into the state and supply of unlicensed guns is rampant in the state. "Though we keep a watch on entry of such illegal weapons into the state, there have been numerous cases where the accused have used weapons supplied from other states. Despite numerous measures, illegal supply of arms to the state continues," a senior police officer said.

Another senior IPS officer said illegal firearm holders are largely extortionists, kidnappers and rowdy elements. Earlier, country-made weapons were sourced from the Andhra Pradesh border, but the supply chain has now shifted to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. However, despite availability, seizures and actual use of illegal firearms remain comparatively low in Karnataka, as many offenders have moved into politics and the real estate business, the officer said.

Speaking to *DH*, senior ballistic expert B C Ravindra, also pointed out that in most cases, assailants use country-made pistols, which are illegal. "These weapons are usually sourced from Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. There are several illegal firearm dealers operating in these regions, but police teams sent to nab them often return empty-handed," he said.

Ravindra further said that nearly 80 to 90% of weapons used in crimes are illegal. "After committing the crime, the accused usually destroy the weapons. They either throw them into flowing water bodies or melt them to ensure no forensic evidence is left behind," he added.

Illicit gunman hiring

Speaking to *DH*, a senior IPS officer serving in north Karnataka said hiring of illicit gunmen has increased sharply, particularly by those involved in politics and land grabbing.

The officer said such activity has risen significantly in cities including Bengaluru, Ballari, Belagavi, Vijayapura and Hubballi, where wealth concentration and real estate-related crimes are high. The IPS officer further said several former MLAs and MPs have been hiring private gunmen to maintain their influence and public image. Ex-servicemen are increasingly being recruited for such roles and are paid high salaries.

"There are active WhatsApp groups that circulate leads for gunman employment. Many of these gunmen are from north India and have obtained firearm licences from Jammu and Kashmir, which they then use across the country," the officer said.

He alleged that many such gunmen violate licence conditions, but enforcement remains weak. "Police often fail to monitor their activities or invoke appropriate legal provisions to cancel the licences," the officer added.

Major gas leak at ONGC site sparks panic

Gas leak, from Page 1

Preliminary reports point to sudden pressure buildup as the cause. The remote site has no human habitation within 500–600 metres, and no injuries or fatalities have been reported.

ONGC said it had cordoned off the area, begun cooling operations and mobilised Crisis Management Teams. Preparatory work is underway for well-control measures and potential capping.

"We are coordinating with international well-control specialists for advanced interventions, including casing-cutting operations pending site assessment. Senior management and technical experts are monitoring developments closely. Additional equipment is being rushed from nearby locations, including Narsapuram," said a senior ONGC official.

ONGC's KG Basin project involves deep-sea oil and gas exploration in the Krishna Godavari Basin off Andhra Pradesh's coast, particularly from the KG-DWN-98/2 (Cluster-2) deepwater block. The operations employ advanced technology for hydrocarbon extraction.

ONGC staff fled in panic from the drilling rig when the gas leak triggered the massive fire. Nearby paddy crops caught fire. Authorities completely evacuated Irusumandalam village in Malkipuram mandal, while agricultural labourers working in adjacent fields ran for their lives.

Konaseema district collector Mahesh Kumar said firefighting teams and ONGC personnel are working round-the-clock to douse the flames. "It will take another 24 hours to determine if the fire is fully under control," he said. No human casualties or major losses have been reported so far. The collector urged officials and residents to remain vigilant and follow safety protocols.

Experts confirmed Mori-5 is a special exploratory well with estimated natural gas reserves of 20 to 40 cubic metres. Assessment continues to gauge the full extent of reserves and stabilise the situation.

Monday's incident recalls ONGC's catastrophic 1995 blowout at Pasarlapudi in East Godavari district. On January 8, 1995, an exploratory gas well suffered a massive uncontrolled release that ignited, creating a towering inferno. The raging fire burned intensely for over two months, forcing the evacuation of around 6,000 families from surrounding villages amid widespread panic and environmental damage.

ONGC's Crisis Management Team (CMT) coordinated with international experts from IWC and NAF specialists. High-pressure water jets, specialised pumps, and other heavy equipment were deployed in a complex, high-risk operation. Final capping efforts faced re-ignition fears at that time.

Court notices to Priyank, Dinesh, Nalapad over comments on RSS

BENGALURU, DHNS

A special court for MP/MLAs has ordered issuing notices to Ministers Priyank Kharge, Dinesh Gundu Rao and Youth Congress leader Mohammad Haris Nalapad, in a defamation case over their alleged comments against the RSS.

The court ordered the notices on a private complaint filed by Tejas A, a Bengaluru resident associated with RSS since 2007. He said that in October 2025, Priyank wrote to the chief minister, requesting for a ban on RSS activities on government premises, including schools and grounds.

Priyank then shared the letter on X and posted "derogatory" statements against the RSS on social media platforms, he alleged.

Rao endorsed his Cabinet colleague's opinion on X. During his official visit to Dakshina Kannada, he repeated the statements at media interactions, the complaint said.

Similarly, Nalapad made "derogatory" comments against the RSS in an interview with a YouTube channel, Tejas said, adding that he was "deeply" hurt by these statements and felt that such statements might lead to bad public opinion about the RSS.

The court recorded the sworn-in complainant's statement and posted the matter to January 14, as a procedure prescribed under section 223 of the BNSS to hear the accused before taking cognisance. It also examined two witnesses cited by the complainant—Satish and Mahesh.

Tiger survey to count other carnivores, mega herbivores too

Exercise to also assess carrying capacity of the areas

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka is set to estimate the population of tigers and five other carnivores and mega herbivores, as part of the sixth cycle of the All India Tiger Estimation Survey (AITES).

The survey will cover areas in and outside the tiger reserves. The groundwork of the survey began on Monday.

The quadrennial exercise, which began about four months ago, will culminate in the publication of the estimation report in early 2027.

Apart from tigers, leopards, dhols, jackals, foxes and wolves, as well as mega herbivores, elephants and gaurs will be estimated.

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre said the exercise, to be taken up in three phases, will also assess the carrying capacity of the areas.

"I have directed the officials to look into the carrying capacity of our forests besides estimating the carnivore population and prey base," he said.

Phase 1 comprises two exercises of the carnivore sign survey and the line transect survey.

In Karnataka, a sign survey is organised in 54 forest divisions, including wildlife and territorial divisions.

Outside protected areas

In the sixth survey -- after 2006, 2010, 2014, 2018 and 2022 -- Karnataka has adopted some of the methods used by Madhya Pradesh in the previous round.

This includes estimation of tigers outside protected areas, including forests and areas where tiger presence has been recorded.

'Top of the list'

"The exercise may result in the upward revision of the numbers, bringing Karnataka back to the top of the list of states hosting tigers," a senior official said.

In fact, Karnataka did occupy the first spot in 2014 with 406 tigers. Though the number increased to 524 in 2018, the state came second to Madhya Pradesh. The number rose to 563 in the 2022 report, but Madhya Pradesh continued to be on top.

Senior officer Ramesh Kumar P, the nominated nodal officer for the state of Karnataka for the 2026 exercise, said over the last three months, field staffers in five tiger reserves and, separately, 13 circles have been trained to take up the exercise.

The quadrennial exercise will estimate the number of tigers, leopards, dhols, jackals, foxes, wolves, as well as mega herbivores, elephants and gaurs, in the state's forests.
DH FILE PHOTO

Three-phase census

PHASE 1

A Sign survey - walk 5 km on existing forest roads/tracks; collecting fresh carnivore scats and fresh dung/pellets of elephants and Indian gaurs. The samples will be collected in a zip-lock bag for DNA analysis.

B Line transect survey - walk 2 km on a predetermined route in each beat; estimate the number of herbivores, deer, sambar, black bucks, wild boars, etc.

PHASE 2 Technical round: Exercise conducted at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, through remote sensing and geographical information system (GIS) techniques.

PHASE 3 Camera trap image analysis: Information obtained from 2,230 camera traps; each camera trap set up to cover a 2X2 km grid forest area.

BJP core committee seeks CBI probe into Ballari violence

BENGALURU, DHNS: The BJP state core committee on Monday decided to seek an investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into the Ballari violence incident.

Addressing reporters, MLC C T Ravi said: "We don't feel any inquiry by the state government will be fair and impartial... It's clear that there was an attack on BJP MLA Janardhana Reddy's house, an attempt to kill him. By mistake, a Congress cadre got killed. The state core committee has decided that a CBI inquiry is adequate and has decided to urge for it."

Ravi also explained that the state president B Y Vijayendra had been given powers to discuss the list of BJP candidates for the upcoming MLC polls with NDA partner JD(S) and send a final list to the BJP Parliamentary Board.

The MLC also explained that the core committee had discussed the candidate selection for the upcoming by-elections to Bagalkot and Davanagere South constituencies, necessitated due to the demise of Congress legislators H Y Meti (Bagalkot) and Shamanur Shivashankarappa (Davanagere South).

The meeting is also said to have discussed undertaking a movement to oppose the policies of the ruling Congress. The core committee meeting was attended by BJP Parliamentary Board Member B S Yediyurappa, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R Ashoka, Leader of the Opposition in Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, Union Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi and so on.

The BJP district-level meetings also began on Monday and will go on till January 13.

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Assault on co-op bank staff union chief: Cong MLA, son booked

ATHANI (BELAGAVI DIST), DHNS: Belagavi District Central Cooperative (BDCC) bank director and Congress MLA Laxman Savadi, his son Chidanand and their supporters were booked by the Athani police late on Sunday night, over charges of assaulting BDCC bank employees union president Ningappa Karennavar at Savadi's house on Saturday.

Karennavar had been to the residence of Savadi in connection with issues related to the union. In a complaint to the police, Karennavar said Savadi abused him in filthy language and slapped him.

Later, the MLA's son Chidanand and others "assaulted" him, resulting in severe injuries. The Athani police are investigating.

BJP MLA, Congress MLC come to blows at KDP meeting in Bidar

BIDAR, DHNS: Humnabad BJP MLA Dr Siddalingappa Patil and Congress MLC Bhimrao Patil came to blows after a verbal altercation during the Karnataka Development Programme (KDP) meeting in the presence of Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre here on Monday.

The confrontation between the two leaders occurred inside the Zilla Panchayat auditorium during a discussion on forest land encroachment.

At one stage, the MLA raised his hand to assault the MLC. The two were seen pushing and hurling abuses at each other. A video of the incident has gone viral on social media. It all started when the MLA sought details of forest land in his constituency during the meeting. When the MLC intervened, the MLA objected to it, leading to a war of words.

Khandre and additional SP Chandrakant Pujari intervened and calmed the tempers. The meeting had to be adjourned without any discussions.

Humnabad BJP MLA Dr Siddalingappa Patil and Congress MLC Bhimrao Patil come to blows at the KDP meeting in the presence of Minister Eshwar Khandre in Bidar on Monday.

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Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application has been made to the Registrar at Bangalore that **Superpacks Business Solutions LLP,** a Limited Liability Partnership may be registered under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act 2013, as a company limited by shares.

The principal objects of the company are as follows:

The Business shall be in the nature of manufacturing corrugated boxes, cartons, etc. and supplying the same to industries like healthcare, IT, retail amongst others.

A copy of the draft memorandum and articles of association of the proposed company may be inspected at the office at 4th Floor, Chitrapur Bhavan, 8th Main, 15th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore 560055.

Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application may communicate their objection in writing to the Registrar at Central Registration Centre (CRC), Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Plot No. 6, 7, 8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar, District Gurgaon (Haryana), Pin Code-122050, within twenty one days from the date of publication of this notice, with a copy to the company at its registered office.

Nanne(s) of Applicant
Aditi Kadur,
Uday Madhukar Bapu
Abishek Kadur
Chandrika Kadur
Date: 06-01-2026, Bengaluru

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This is to inform the general public that my client intends to purchase the immovable properties mentioned and described in the schedule below from its respective Owners. The Owners represent that they are the absolute owners of their respective portion of the Schedule Property and the same is free from all encumbrances, mortgage, charge, lien or litigation and they have not entered into any sort of agreement/MOU/Deeds etc., for transfer of the Schedule Property. Any person/s having any objection, claim, right, title and/or interest with respect to the Schedule Property or any part or portion thereof by way of sale, agreement of sale, conveyance, acquisition, partition, transfer, memorandum of understanding, exchange, mortgage, pledge, charge, encumbrance, inheritance, succession, lease, easement or demand or objections or claims of any nature whatsoever for the proposed transaction shall lodge their claim(s)/ objection(s)/demand(s) with the undersigned supported by documentary evidence within Fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this notice failing which, my client shall proceed with the above-mentioned transaction as though there are no claim(s) / objection(s) / demand(s) to the proposed transaction.

SCHEDULE

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2.	E-Khatha No. 152200102824020024 (earlier bearing Survey No. 18/2)	Sri. Vijay Kumar N son of Late Neelakantan	04-00	Property bearing Survey No.18/1.	Property bearing Survey No. 18/6.	Property bearing Survey Nos. 6 & 7.	Property bearing Survey Nos. 5 & 19.

Vinay K.S.
Advocates,
Vinay Kademane & Associates,
307, 3rd Floor, Prestige Centre Point,No. 7/49, Edward Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.
Ph: 080-22863885; email id: vinay@vinaykademane.in
Date: 06-01-2026
Place: Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client MRS.ANITHA H S, Aged about 48 years, W/o.Late Mr.B.V.Srinivas, Residing at : No.490, 8th Main, 2nd Cross, ITI Colony, Magammanapalya, Bommanahalli, Bangalore South, Bangalore - 560 068, has lost the following Original Documents : **(a)** Original Registered Release Deed dated 28-12-2005, Registered as Document No. KRI-1-11443-2005-06, Book - 1, stored in CD No. KRID 167, Registered before the Sub-Registrar, K.R. Puram, Bangalore, (executed by Smt.Lalitha in favour of Mr.B.V.Srinivasa) and, **(b)** Original Allotment Letter dated 20.12.1988, issued by Bangalore Development Authority in the name of Mr.R.V.Venkata Subramanya, and **(c)** Original Lease cum Sale Agreement dated 17.08.1989, registered as Document No.1905/1989-90, book-1, Volume 39, at pages 124-129, registered at the Office of Sub-Registrar, Krishnarajapura, Bangalore, in favor of Mr.R.V.Venkata Subramanya, pertaining to residential property bearing BDA SITE NO.1628, E - PID No.4094027657, Present Khatha No.1093/2853/1628, situated at HENNUR – BELLARY ROAD (HBR) Layout, Bangalore, now comes under the Jurisdiction of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Ward No.24 - HBR Layout, Bangalore, measuring East to West : 40 Feet and North to South: 30 feet, in all measuring 1200 Sq.Ft.
In this regards my client had preferred a Police complaint before the Bengaluru City Police, in Lost Article Report No. 1993780/2026 dated 05-01-2026 in Serial No 1993780 If found, the said documents may kindly be delivered to the under mentioned address. Any objection from the concerned public will not be entertained or bind my client after expiry of 7 days from the date of publication of this NOTICE.
SAJIKUMAR K.B, Advocate
No.4, 1st Floor, 80 Feet Road, 2nd Cross, Chairman Layout, HRBR 1st Block, Kalyan Nagar Post, Bengaluru - 560 043.
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PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MUMTAZ ALI** S/o Ather Nazeer, residing at No.8/2, Hosahalli Gollarapalya, Near Service Road, Bengaluru-91, have changed my name from **MAMTAZ ALI** S/o **ATHER NAZIR** to **MUMTAZ ALI** S/o **ATHER NAZEER** for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 05.01.2026 before notary H R Karunakara, Bengaluru

I, V. MUNIRAJU, S/o Venkataramanappa, R/a No. 1046, 2nd cross, Weavers Colony, Bannerughatta Road, Bangalore - 560083, have changed my name to V. MUNIRAJAMMA (Transgender) vide affidavit dated 03.01.2026 before Notary A.R. Muneer Ahmed, Bangalore.

I, ANKIT Budur Lulla S/o Anil Budur Lulla R/O F 216, 2nd Floor, Purva Graces Apartment, Amruthahalli, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka- 560092, have changed my name to ANKIT L.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **S. Subash,** residing No. 9, Near Excel Building Opp Pearl Garden, Munnekolala, Marathahalli Colony, Bengaluru-560037, have changed my minor daughter's name from **PRINCY S** to **PRINCY MUTHU S** vide affidavit dated 17-11-2025 before notary B.M. Chandrashekar, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **PRINCY MUTHU S** only

CHANGE OF NAME
I, V. Sai Raghunandan S/o. Shri D.N. Vidhya Shankar, R/a No.7, 7th Cross, 60 Feet Road, Near Sathyanarayana Choultry J.C. Nagar, Kurubarahalli, Mahalakshmipuram, Bangalore-560 086 have changed my name from **V. SAI RAGHUNANDAN** to **RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA** vide affidavit dated 03-01-2026 Sworn before Notary B.Prasanna, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **FATHIMA BATOOL MOHAMMED FAHIM UDYAWAR,** residing at No.S-1, Vastav Regency 1st Cross, 9th A Main, 1st Stage, BTM Layout, Bengaluru - 560029 have changed my name to **FATIMA BATOOL** vide affidavit dtd: 01-12-2025 before notary K.N.Ramadevi, Bengaluru, Henceforth I shall be called as **FATIMA BATOOL** only.

THANKSGIVING
DH DECCAN HERALD
Book your Thanksgiving Advertisement in Deccan Herald for
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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, U.R. RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
HAL Airport Road, Bengaluru - 560 017
(Phone: 080 25084184, 4156)
BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

Sl. No	Description	Details		
1	Name of work	Civil and Electrical Works for HMG Office Room at INSAT Annex Building and Providing Vitrified Tile Flooring in Second Floor INSAT Building, Main Campus, Vimanapura, Bengaluru-560017.	Providing and Fixing of Brass Letters over Main entrance of various buildings at ISITE Campus, URSC, Marathahalli, Bengaluru-560037.	Annual Rate Contract for Washing & Pressing of Liveries of URSC and Health Centre, Jeevan Bhima Nagar, Bengaluru.
2	E-Tender Notice No.	URSC/C&MG/C/M/28/2025-26, Dt. 02/01/2026	URSC/C&MG/C/M/29/2025-26, Dt. 02/01/2026	URSC/C&MG/C/M/30/2025-26, Dt. 02/01/2026
3	Estimated cost put to Tender	₹ 23.47 Lakhs	₹ 12.64 Lakhs	₹ 8.17 Lakhs
4	Period of completion	Seven Months	Three Months	Twelve Months
5	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**₹ 46,940/- valid for 180 days**	**₹ 25,280/- valid for 180 days**	**₹ 16,340.00/- valid for 180 days**

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**.
Sd/-
Group Director, C&MG, URSC

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP portal only)
BWSSB invites Tenders from eligible contractors for the following Works:
Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & Time for submission of tender	Date & Time for opening of tender
RB - IT	BWSSB/ ERB/729/ 2025-26 Dt. 16.12.2025	Rs.44,16,504/- / Rs.88,500/-	21-01-2026 upto 4.00 p.m.	22-01-2026 at 4.01 p.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (RB - IT).
The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the signed office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO4864/25-26

BENGALURU SMART INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED
Office of the Superintendent Engineer-02
Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited,
N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002
No: SE-2/BSMILE/TEND/03/2025-26 **Date: 05-01-2026**
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) Two Cover Systerm
(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
As per the Hon'ble Chief Commissioner, GBA approval vide Note (10) on 01-01-2026, The Superintendent Engineer-02, Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited- White Topping Division on behalf of the Chief Commissioner, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), invites Proposals (Technical and Financial) for appointing Agency for Availing Graduate/Diploma Engineers for Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited Wing.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Availing Graduate/Diploma Engineers for Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited- White Topping division **Amount put to Tender (Including GST) : ₹.88.72 Lakhs, EMD: 50,000.00**

Calendar of Events : (1) Availability of RFP Documents from **06-01-2026** onwards (2) Date of Pre-bid meeting on **07-01-2026** at **3:30** pm. (3) Last date for uploading filled proposals is **12-01-2026** before **4:00** pm (4) Date of Opening of Technical proposals is **13-01-2026** at **4:30** pm. (5) Date of Opening of Financial proposals after Approval of Technical Proposals through KPPP
Sd/- Superintendenting Engineer-02
Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited
Greater Bengaluru Authority

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ,
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ–562 101 ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಛೇರಿ: 08156–295427 ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 08156–295427
ಇಮೇಲ್ : eemidcbpura@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಕಾಸಬ/ಸ.ನೀ ಮತ್ತು ಅ.ಅ.ಏ/ಚಿ.ಪುರ/ತಾಂಶಾ/ತಾಂಶ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ / 2379/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 01/01/2025
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 22/2025–26, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01/01/2026
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ರವರಿಂದ ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ– 3 ಮತ್ತು 4 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಅಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಕೆಟಿಪಿಪಿ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ ಅನ್ವಯ ಎರಡು ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 4702 ವಿಶೇಷ ಘಟಕ ಯೋಜನೆ, 4702 ಗಿರಿಜನ ಉಪ ಯೋಜನೆ, ಮತ್ತು 4702 ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು ಕೆರೆಗಳ ಆಧುನೀಕರಣ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ 275.00 ಲಕ್ಷ ಮತ್ತು ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 100.00 ಲಕ್ಷ, ನಿಗಧಿತ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ–ಮೋರ್ಟ್‌ಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿದ್ದಂತೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸ್ಸಿಂಗ್ ಫೀ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ–ಮೋರ್ಟ್‌ಲ್ ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02/01/2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು (Download). ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ (Upload) ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12/01/2026 ಸಂಜೆ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14/01/2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ. ಮೇಲಿನ ವಿವರಗಳು ಭವಿಷ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂದರ್ಭೋಚಿತವಾಗಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತವೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರ ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಿಗೆ www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲ ತಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ (ರಜಾದಿನ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ) ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೇ ಅನುಮೋದಿಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್
ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ

SHRI BHIMASHANKAR SAHAKARI SAKKARE KHARKANE NIYAMIT MARAGUR
TQ: INDI-SINDAGI, DIST: VIJAYAPUR. 586204, KARNATAKA STATE
Mob No: +91 7353818544 Email Id: sales.bsskn@gmail.com
SBSSKN/SALES/SUG/EXP/2025-26/118 DATE: 05-01-2026
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE FOR EXPORT OF SUGAR AND 5000 MT "A" GRADE MOLASSES

1) Factory invites the tender for Export of White sugar as per Govt Policy from the recognized / reputed Exports having registration with DGFT for export of sugar.

Production	Season 2025-26 (White Sugar)
Quantity	2010 MT (S-30 Grade)
ICCUMSA	Below 100 by Method 10
Packing	50 Kgs, PP Bags
Deposit	Rs.2000 PMT.
Delivery	Ex-Factory
Subsidy	Any subsidy announced by State / Central Govt, will be on account of sugar factory.

* Other Terms and condition will be informed at the time of negotiations.
* Last date submitting Quotation on or before 12/01/2026 @ 05:30 PM.
* Date of opening of tender 19/01/2026 @ 10: 00 AM.
* The terms and conditions of tender can be obtained from the factory office.
* Non-Returnable tender form fee of Rs, 1000/-.
* Factory reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the tenders at any time, without assigning any reasons therefore.

2) Factory invites the tender for sale of 5000 MT'S "A" grade Molasses of 2025-26 season production.
Those who are interested may submit their quotation along with EMD of Rs, 15 Lakhs in the form of DD/RTGS, Drawn on any nationalised Bank, In favour of Shri Bhimashankar Sahakari Sakkare Karakhane Niyamit., Maragur, Tq: Indi, Dist: Vijayapur, Karnataka State. Last date submitting Quotation on or before 12/01/2026 @ 05:30 PM and Date of opening of tender will be informed separately. The terms and conditions of tender can be obtained from the factory office.
Factory reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the tenders at any time, without assigning any reasons therefore.

Sd/- Managing Director
Sd/- Chairman

Hindi heartland has to emulate TN for India to grow: Ex-CEA

CHENNAI, DHNS: Stressing cooperative federalism and competitive federalism, former Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian on Monday said for India to develop, the Hindi heartland states have to emulate Tamil Nadu's model.

Subramanian said Tamil Nadu has emerged as a prime destination for companies that diversify from China, with the likes of Apple manufacturing through their suppliers, boosting low-skill formal manufacturing, which is crucial for inclusive growth and jobs.

"If India has to develop today, then the Hindi heartland has to become what Tamil Nadu is today. Leading states like TN can be a model that others can emulate and attract talent, knowledge, and technology," he said at the event to launch the distribution of laptops to 10 lakh government college students by CM Stalin.

Subramanian said states like TN are challenging the narrative that India cannot replicate the China miracle. He said TN has been stealing a march over other states in manufacturing as well, benefiting from the China plus one strategy of global firms.

Gujarat typhoid outbreak: Kids among 150 hospitalised

AHMEDABAD, DHNS: A total of 150 patients, including children, have been admitted to hospital following the typhoid outbreak in Gujarat's capital Gandhinagar, said officials on Monday.

Two children were reported dead, but the hospital authorities claimed they were not connected with the epidemic.

Gandhinagar Civil Hospital Medical Superintendent Mita Parekh told reporters on Monday that a total of 152 patients had been admitted to the GCH. "Out of them, 108 were suspected cases while Widal (test for detecting typhoid)-positive cases are 50, and 25 have been discharged till now," she said.

India slashed Russia oil imports to make me happy: Trump

New Delhi refrains from commenting on these claims

President Donald Trump speaks with reporters while in flight on Air Force One. AP

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

US President Donald Trump has said New Delhi slashed oil imports from Russia to make him happy, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi was aware of his dismay over India's increasing energy purchases from the former Soviet Union nation.

"They (India) wanted to make me happy, basically. Modi... is a good guy. He knew I was not happy, and it was important to make me happy. They do trade, and we can raise tariffs on them very quickly," Trump told journalists aboard Air Force One while flying from Florida to Washington DC on Sunday.

US Senator Lindsay Graham, who was also on the aircraft, said New Delhi's envoy to Washington DC, Vinay Kwatra, told him about India slashing oil imports from Russia.

However, New Delhi has refrained from commenting on these claims.

Graham said Kwatra requested his help to get the 25% tariff Trump imposed on India's exports to the US — to dissuade it from purchasing Russian oil — withdrawn.

"This stuff (tariff) works," added Graham, who sponsored the 2025 Sanctioning Russia Bill in the US Congress, with Trump nodding. "If you want to end this conflict (between Russia and Ukraine), then put pressure on (Russian President Vladimir) Putin's customers."

The Bill sponsored by Graham sought to empower the US President to slap up to 500% tariffs on countries like India for buying oil from Russia.

Trump's tariffs

Trump announced on August 6 a 25% tariff — on top of the 25% levied earlier — on India's exports to the US to dissuade the South Asian nation from buying Russian oil.

Russia's share in India's total crude oil imports rose from less than 2% before the launch of its war in Ukraine in 2022 to around 40% by 2023-24.

However, they came down from over 2 million barrels per day in June last year to 1.6 million barrels per day in September.

The imports saw a rebound in October and the first half of November, but fell nearly 30% after the stringent US sanctions on Rosneft and Lukoil of Russia came into effect on November 21.

New Delhi never officially acknowledged the role of the US sanctions in the decline of India's imports of oil from Russia.

Oppn voices grave concern over US actions in Venezuela

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS:

Congress on Monday said the unilateral actions taken by the United States in Venezuela "transgress" the United Nations Charter and numerous international treaties and insisted that the will of the Venezuelan people be given utmost priority and that Venezuelan resources are utilised for the betterment of its people.

The Foreign Affairs Department of Congress said in a statement that respect for national sovereignty and peaceful coexistence have formed the bedrock of the post World War-II rules-based world order while expressing "grave concern at the unilateral actions" taken by the US, which transgress the settled principles of international law, as enshrined in the United Nations Charter and numerous international treaties.

"Any kinetic action that circumscribes these without the express sanction of the UN risks the resurgence of primordial rules of statecraft and undermines global stability.... Congress urges that the will of the Venezuelan people be given utmost priority and that Venezuelan resources are utilised for the betterment of the Venezuelan people, as guaranteed by the principles of Permanent Sovereignty over Natural Resources," it said.

CPM demanded that the Modi government "abandon" its "disgraceful position" and come out categorically against the US "aggression and illegal" acts in Venezuela, claiming that there is not a word of condemnation about the gross violation of the UN Charter and international law, something which even some European allies of the US have mentioned, while reacting to the developments.

CPI expressed its "deep concern and anguish" over the position adopted by the Modi government, which has "chosen to remain silent and, in effect, align itself with US imperialism" on this critical issue.

'Fight for existence': Mamata threatens to move court against SIR

Says move against 'inhumane treatment, deaths'

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee plays a traditional instrument during laying of the foundation stone for the 'Gangasagar Setu', a nearly 5-km-long bridge over the Muriganga river to connect Sagar Island. PTI

KOLKATA, DHNS

Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress (TMC) chief Mamata Banerjee on Monday said she would move court against the Election Commission (EC)'s Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal — a process which, according to her, has been marred by serious irregularities, procedural violations, and administrative lapses.

Bengal BJP heavyweight Suvendu Adhikari, however, dismissed her allegations and claimed that her plea to the chief election commissioner (CEC) to pause the process was the TMC's "admission of defeat" in the upcoming Assembly elections. He wrote to CEC Gyanesh Kumar that the people of West Bengal, contrary to TMC's propaganda, had embraced the SIR process as "a beacon of hope".

"This is a fight for existence. We are seeking legal help," said Banerjee at Sagar Island in the South 24 Parganas district on Monday. "We are moving court tomorrow against the inhumane treatment and the death of so many people due to the SIR."

Banerjee wrote to the CEC on Friday, urging him to rectify the glitches in the SIR process and warning that it might lead to mass disenfranchisement of eligible voters if it continued with serious irregularities.

She alleged that elderly citizens, pregnant women, and voters on oxygen support were being called for hearings. "After living in this country for so long, do they still need to prove that they are voters and citizens?" she asked.

Cricketer Mohammed Shami and his brother, Bengali actor and Lok Sabha member Dev Adhikari and three of his kin, and poet Joy Goswami were among those asked to appear for a hearing.

"Names are being removed using Artificial Intelligence (AI)," alleged Banerjee on Monday, adding that the names of lakhs of people had been deleted without they being given adequate opportunity to respond through statutory forms.

"AI is deciding whose surname has changed, who got married, and which girl has gone to her in-laws' house. Even a murderer gets a chance to defend himself," she said, arguing that routine events like marriage, address changes, or spelling mismatches were being used to justify deletions.

Was promised T'puram Mayor's post': Sreelekha

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: BJP councillor and former DGP R Sreelekha has said she contested the recent Kerala local body elections after being assured that she would be made Mayor of the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, but added that she accepted the party leadership's decision to appoint a more experienced leader as the Mayor.

R Sreelekha

Amidst reports that the BJP offered her the winnable Vattiyoorkavu seat in the city in the coming assembly polls, Sreelekha said she has not received any message from the party in this regard.

Sreelekha, who is the first woman IPS officer from Kerala, was elected as a councilor of Sasthamangalam ward. Though she was widely considered the mayoral candidate, the party went with V V Rajesh.

Congress signals unity as Tharoor attends key Kerala meet

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

A two-day meeting of the Congress leadership in Kerala concluded with a call for top leaders unitedly facing the coming Assembly elections to return to power in the state after 10 years by winning 100 seats in the 140-member House.

The strict advice to party leaders to eschew statements against the party's larger interest assumed much significance as Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor was also present at the meeting.

Tharoor reaffirmed his loyalty to the Congress: He told reporters after the meeting that he continued to be a party member even though he delivered opinions on some issues.

AICC general secretary K C Venugopal said the Congress always wanted to make use of the contribution of valuable leaders like Tharoor.

Tharoor had already been advised by the party to be cautious while making statements, he added.

Shashi Tharoor

The meeting finalised an approach paper for the Assembly polls. It was decided to raise the alleged sabotaging of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and the Sabrimala temple gold heist as issues to attack the BJP and the CPM-led Left Democratic Front, which is in power in the state.

Political climate

The meeting evaluated that the political climate in Kerala was favourable enough for the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) to win at least 90 seats.

Opposition leader V D Satheesan expressed hopes that some regional parties from rival camps might join the UDF before the elections, which would strengthen the coalition. Talks in this regard were already progressing, he said, but cautioned that the CPM camps would try to trigger a narrative of infighting within the Congress.

GBS-like symptoms suspected in Indore outbreak zone

INDORE, PTI: A 67-year-old woman from Bhagirathpura, the ground zero of the diarrhoea outbreak triggered by contaminated drinking water in Indore, has reportedly shown Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS)-like symptoms and is battling for her life in a hospital.

However, the administration on Monday rejected reports of any GBS case in the affected area.

The woman, identified as Parvati Kondla, had earlier been admitted to another hospital, where doctors, based on test reports, indicated GBS-like symptoms, according to an official of a private hospital where the patient is currently admitted in critical condition.

"However, when she was thoroughly examined at our hospital, it was found that she is also suffering from a brain stroke. Treatment is being administered based on all symptoms," he said.

The administration, however, rejected media reports and claimed no GBS case has been found in Bhagirathpura.

GBS is a rare but serious neurological disorder in which the body's immune system mistakenly attacks the peripheral nervous system. It can cause sudden numbness, muscle weakness, and, in some cases, difficulty in swallowing or breathing.

38 new cases

At least 38 fresh cases of vomiting and diarrhoea linked to contaminated drinking water were detected on Monday at the Bhagirathpura primary health centre in Indore, with a senior official putting the death toll so far to 7.

Six patients have been referred for treatment, and 110 are currently undergoing treatment in hospitals, including 15 in ICUs, officials said.

Meanwhile, a man on Monday claimed his 69-year-old relative died due to diarrhoea after drinking contaminated water in Bhagirathpura. However, local officials denied the link to the tragedy in the area that has claimed seven lives so far, citing his hospital admission date and "pre-existing conditions." Omprakash Sharma died on Sunday while he was undergoing treatment for diarrhoea at a private hospital, his kin said.

Palaniswami skips meeting Shah; Dhinakaran hints at joining TVK

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Union ministers Amit Shah, Piyush Goyal, L Murugan and Tamil Nadu BJP president Nainar Nagendran during 'Namma Ooru Modi Pongal' festival, in Tiruchirappalli, on Monday. PTI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah and AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami have publicly contradicted each other on whether it will be a coalition government, or a single-party dispensation will be formed if the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) wins the 2026 assembly elections in Tamil Nadu.

On Sunday, just a few hours apart, Shah, who is visiting Tamil Nadu, said the NDA will form the government, while Palaniswami reiterated that the AIADMK will form a majority government on its own. This brings to fore the persisting differences between the two major partners of the NDA, which is already struggling to expand even as PMK and DMDK dither on joining the alliance.

It is also interesting that Palaniswami did not meet Shah citing his prior engagements, triggering speculation of differences between the two parties. However, Palaniswami's confidante and senior AIADMK leader S P Velumani met Shah in Tiruchirappalli on Sunday night and again Monday morning for discussions on alliance.

"The two parties are discussing expanding the NDA. They are also discussing the number of seats the constituents will contest. These are initial discussions," a source told *DH*. BJP has been insisting that the AIADMK share power with alliance partners, but the Dravidian major has been non-committal and continues to contradict the saffron party.

The AIADMK has been insisting that the party should contest in about 170 seats while leaving 64 seats for alliance partners. "While the broad contours of seat-sharing will be decided by Shah, the actual numbers will be decided by Union Minister and election in-charge Piyush Goyal," the source added.

On Monday, as Shah celebrated Pongal in Tiruchirappalli, just 50 km away in Thanjavur, BJP's former ally AMMK's T T V Dhinakaran dropped ample hints of joining the Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) alliance. Dhinakaran is upset with the BJP for cold-shouldering him after the party revived its alliance with the AIADMK in April 2025.

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No. BIMS/A.H.S/CR-03/2025-26 Date: 05-01-2026

CORRIGENDUM

ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ B.Sc Allied Health ಕೋರ್ಸಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಉಳಿದಿರುವ ಸೀಟುಗಳ ನೇರ ಸಂದರ್ಶನದ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04–01–2026 ರಂದು ನೀಡಲಾಗಿತ್ತು ಅದರಂತೆ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳು ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿವೆ.

1)	ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು (In Person) ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:	07–01–2026 ರಂದು ಮುಂಜಾನೆ 10.00 ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ 08–01–2026 ರಂದು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 1.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
2)	ಆಯ್ಕೆಯಾದ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಫಲಿತಾಂಶ ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ:	08–01–2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 6.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.
3)	ಆಯ್ಕೆಯಾದ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗೆ ವರದಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:	09–01–2026 ರಂದು ಮುಂಜಾನೆ 9.00 ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: https://bimsbelgaum.karnataka.gov.in,
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: belgaum.bims@gmail.com

Sd/- Director
Belagavi Institute of Medical Sciences
Belagavi.

DIPR/Belagavi/1589/Adverto/2025-26

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪೂರ್ವ&ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ), ಸಿವಿಲ್ ವಿಭಾಗ
ಸಯ್ಯಾಜಿರಾವ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಇ–ಮೇಲ್– eewmccmys@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾ.ಇಂ(ಪೂ&ಪ)/ಸಾ.ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ–22/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.01.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಒಟ್ಟು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು	ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಜಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ
	ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು					
1	ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾಇಂ(ಪ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್–59/2025–26, ದಿನಾಂಕ:02.01.2026	02	300.00	02.01.2026 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11 ರ ನಂತರ	16.01.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ವರೆಗೆ	17.01.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30ರ ನಂತರ
2	ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾ.ಅ(ಪೂ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್–60/2025–26, ದಿನಾಂಕ:02.01.2026	03	163.00	02.01.2026 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11 ರ ನಂತರ	09.01.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ವರೆಗೆ	12.01.2026 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ರ ನಂತರ
3	ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾ.ಅ(ಪೂ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್–61/2025–26, ದಿನಾಂಕ:02.01.2026	03	101.98	05.01.2026 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11 ರ ನಂತರ	19.01.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.29 ವರೆಗೆ	20.01.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ರ ನಂತರ
4	ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾಇಂ(ಪ)ಟಿ.ಎನ್–62/2025–26, ದಿನಾಂಕ:02.01.2026	01	162.00	03.01.2026 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11 ರ ನಂತರ	12.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ವರೆಗೆ	13.01.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ರ ನಂತರ

ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪೂರ್ವ ಮತ್ತು ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ) ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆ: ಮುಂದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸೂಚನೆ/ಬದಲಾವಣೆ / ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪೂರ್ವ)
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ)
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

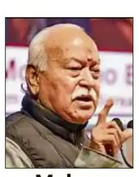
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಮೈಸೂರು/1472/ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಸಿ/2025–26

'Love jihad', illegal migration top RSS agenda at Vrindavan meet

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

"Love jihad", illegal migration, and the "unification" of Hindus topped the agenda during deliberations on the opening day of the seven-day national executive committee meeting of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) at Vrindavan in Uttar Pradesh on Sunday.

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat met Sangh senior functionaries and asked them to reach out to people and make them aware of the significance of unity.



Mohan Bhagwat

According to sources, Bhagwat expressed concern over "love jihad" and the "division" in the Hindu society.

"We should reach out to every household and persuade Hindus to remain united," he told the functionaries.

"India can become strong only when we remain united... Swayamsevaks should carry out this task (of uniting Hindus) with responsibility," he added.

The RSS chief also cautioned the people against "love jihad", saying: "We must be on the guard."

Issues and dignitaries

Sources said the alleged persecution of Hindus in Bangladesh and illegal migrations would also form a part of the discussions at the meeting.

Sources also said the meeting would deliberate on the Sangh's centenary celebrations as well.

The sources also said that Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Adityanath, and his Rajasthan counterpart Bhajanlal Sharma could meet the RSS chief during his stay at Vrindavan.

Bhagwat is also expected to launch the centenary celebrations of the Nabhapeeth Sudama Kuti, beginning from January 10.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Illegal aggression, familiar ploy

The United States' strike on Venezuela, which killed at least 40, and the capture of President Nicolas Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores, is a blatant violation of established international law as well as the US Constitution. The move also violates Article 2 of the UN Charter, which emphasises sovereign equality of member states and prohibits force against the territorial integrity of another state. US President Donald Trump has harked back to the 200-year-old Monroe Doctrine, which entails a now-irrelevant foreign policy – an anti-colonialist measure, quoted and used perversely by US presidents in the 20th century. The unfounded charges of narco-terrorist activities are merely a ruse to project Maduro's kidnapping as a police action for a farcical trial. There are no takers for this at home or abroad, except for Trump loyalists and tethered allies in Europe.

This is an act of aggression motivated by the US's strategic interests, aligned with its new security strategy, and intended to check Russian and Chinese sway in the region. The attack, brazen in intent and method, will push the new regime to open up the nation's oil reserves and mineral wealth. Trump has indicated that there could be more such action against Colombia, Cuba, Iran, and Greenland to capture strategic resources. However, the outcomes of such attacks are unpredictable, as the world saw the US make a mess in Libya and its neighbourhood, get bogged down in Iraq for ten years to no avail, and remain stuck in Afghanistan for 20 years before fleeing from their self-brewed stew under the cover of darkness. Obviously, little has been learnt from these colossal failures of both foreign policy and military occupation.

In the attack on Venezuela, the US subverts rules-based order, ignoring lessons from past misfires

As the US witnessed elsewhere, the bombing and kidnapping of Maduro could become a rallying point in Venezuela, even for those disillusioned with his dictatorial ways. An invading foreigner has not been welcomed in most countries in the region. Besides, there are a lot of armed groups which may move in to bolster any popular resistance that gathers against the US action. There is much at stake for others in the region if the US succeeds in its gamble in Venezuela. Equally important is how the world at large responds. Russia, China, Brazil, South Africa, and many G20 countries have been outspoken in their condemnation of the US action. India has remained silent and played safe until now on US transgressions. There are expectations that, as the chair of the BRICS in 2026 and a self-avowed leader of the G20, it would opt for remaining on the right side of history.

In Ballari, a dangerous relapse looms

The violence that erupted in Ballari on January 1, leaving a young Congress party worker dead, is a chilling reminder that the district's troubled past is never too far beneath the surface. What began as a dispute over banners put up for the unveiling of a Maharishi Valmiki statue quickly spiralled into stone-pelting, gunfire, and a breakdown of public order, reviving memories of the so-called 'Republic of Ballari', when political power, private muscle, and illegal wealth fused into a parallel state. At one level, the trigger to the violence was banal: the installation of banners near the residence of controversial mining baron and BJP MLA G Janardhana Reddy, objected to by his supporters. At another, it was deeply symbolic. The Valmiki statue was not merely a cultural project. It was a high-stakes political statement aimed at the Valmiki community, a formidable vote bank in Kalyana Karnataka. The confrontation was, therefore, less about banners and more about political turf.

That the volatile rivalry between Janardhana Reddy and Bellary City Congress MLA Nara Bharath Reddy was allowed to escalate raises disturbing questions about intelligence gathering and policing failures. The swift suspension of SP Pavan Nejjur – who had taken charge just hours earlier – underscores a systemic breakdown. The official grounds for his removal were serious: failure to reach the site promptly, remaining unreachable to senior officers during the crisis, and an inability to provide a coherent briefing, relying instead on second-hand information. Whether Nejjur was genuinely negligent or a convenient scapegoat, the police clearly failed to assert authority when it mattered most.

The violent clash points to policing failures and a gun culture that must not be allowed to thrive

Equally alarming is the ease with which firearms entered a political confrontation. Even if private security personnel are legally permitted to carry weapons, viral visuals of a gunman firing openly expose a dangerous normalisation of political gun culture. This points to a regulatory vacuum around armed retainers – their verification, training, and accountability. Ballistic reports suggesting that the fatal shot was fired at close range from a private weapon heighten the gravity of the issue. Ballari's chequered history makes these questions urgent, not academic. The government must go beyond suspensions and rhetoric. A thorough probe, a state-wide audit of private firearm licences, stricter norms for armed security, and clear accountability for intelligence lapses are imperative. Above all, the state must reassert that no leader, legacy or vote bank is above the rule of law. Ballari cannot be allowed to relapse into a republic unto itself.

FUTURE OF WORK

Risks without rights: India's gig economy imbalance

The formalisation of platform-led work must be backed by universal rights, including minimum wages

AJIT RANADE

A few years ago, outside the Transport Commissioner's office in Bandra, thousands of Ola and Uber drivers staged a protest. Their demands were modest: better fares, fair commissions, humane working hours, and some protection against arbitrary penalties. The official response was revealing. The Commissioner reportedly told them he had no jurisdiction. They were not "employees" but "business partners", entrepreneurs running their own micro-enterprises. Had they been old-style taxi permit holders, he might have been able to help them, since the applicable rules were clear. That moment was a wake-up call. Not just for cab drivers, but for millions of workers who suddenly discovered that while they bore all the risks of work, they enjoyed almost none of its protections.

What we today call the "gig economy" is often portrayed as a new phenomenon born of apps and algorithms. In reality, it is an old Indian phenomenon, wearing a digital mask. Nearly two decades ago, the Arjun Sengupta Committee on the unorganised sector documented a striking fact: close to 64% of the workers in the unorganised sector were self-employed, and thus did not have an identifiable employer. This is because they worked for multiple principals over short spells. They were self-employed, casual, piece-rate workers – construction hands, home-based workers, street vendors. Today's gig workers are their technological descendants.

So why are gig workers protesting now, and doing so in a far more organised way? Because the scale and intensity of platform-mediated work have changed the nature of dependence. Take cab drivers. Recent protests in Mumbai saw nearly 90% of app-based cabs go off the roads, with drivers demanding fare parity with black-and-yellow taxis, a cap on commissions, welfare boards, and state-level gig worker legislation. Similar anger simmers among food-delivery workers, warehouse pickers, and instant-commerce riders. Nationwide strikes have demanded a minimum monthly income, regulated work hours, and social security.

At the heart of the unrest is a simple asymmetry. Platforms insist workers are independent entrepreneurs and business partners. Yet the platforms decide prices, allocate tasks, impose penalties, deactivate accounts, tweak parameters, and constantly change rules through opaque algorithms. Workers, meanwhile, invest their own capital – vehicles, fuel, smartphones, insurance – and absorb all the downside risk. They do not even have accident cover from the employer, which would be the equivalent of workplace injury cover. This asymmetry cannot be termed as entrepreneurship. It is unfair risk-shifting from the big to the small.

The defence offered by platform CEOs is familiar: better a precarious livelihood than no livelihood at all; over-regulation

will kill innovation. There is some truth here. India needs jobs, and platforms have undeniably expanded access to work hugely. But this argument confuses flexibility with insecurity. A labour market that only creates livelihoods by stripping workers of basic protections and making them more vulnerable is not a sustainable growth model.

Historically, labour movements were organised around factories and identifiable employers. Gig workers lack both. They are, in a literal sense, employer-less. This is precisely why their collective action matters, and in some ways, was inevitable. Their organisation is emerging not despite their legal status, but because of it.

When delivery workers log off *en masse*, or cab drivers strike, they are asserting a fact that the law has been slow to recognise: economic dependence matters more than contractual labels. Courts and regulators are beginning to see this.

The tide is also turning globally. The UK Supreme Court classified Uber drivers as "workers" entitled to minimum wages and paid leave. Spain's Rider Law treats food-delivery riders as employees. Other countries have created intermediate categories – neither full employees nor pure contractors – but with enforceable floors of rights. International evidence converges on one point: flexibility need not mean a vacuum of rights for the workers.

A shift through labour codes

India has taken an important first step through the implementation of the four labour codes, especially the Code on Social Security, 2020. For the first time, gig and platform workers are recognised as a distinct category, eligible for State-designed social security schemes. Draft rules now propose thresholds – 90 days of work with an aggregator, or 120 days across platforms – to qualify for benefits such as insurance and health cover.

This recognition is progress, and it matters. Registration through e-Shram, welfare boards, and contributory funds, such as levies on platform turnover, can create a portable safety net. States like Rajasthan and Telangana have moved faster with dedicated gig worker legislation.

But we should not overstate what has been achieved. The codes stop short of core labour rights: minimum wages, limits on working hours, collective bargaining, or strong protections against arbitrary deactivation. Social security remains largely discretionary and scheme-based.

As the economy grows and formal enterprises expand, employment has paradoxically become more informal. If India's future of work is increasingly platform-mediated, formalisation cannot mean necessitating that everyone will have standard employment contracts, i.e. jobs. It must mean extending a universal floor of rights – minimum pay standards, safety, insurance, due process – to all workers. Seen this way, gig worker mobilisation is not anti-growth. It is pro-institution. It is a demand that markets be embedded in rules, that innovation can coexist with dignity. The Sengupta Committee argued long ago that growth without security breeds vulnerability and resentment. That warning echoes loudly today.

The pendulum swung too far in celebrating flexibility while ignoring power. It is now swinging back, slowly and contentiously. The challenge for policymakers is not to kill the gig economy, but to civilise it. If India can manage that balance, the gig economy could become a bridge to a more formal, inclusive labour market, rather than a cul-de-sac of permanent insecurity and precarity. That would be real innovation.

(The writer is an economist; Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

When phones struck the right chord

Landline phones transformed lives by connecting hearts

RASHMI RAJ

With trembling, wrinkled hands, she held a marvel—my great-grandmother Sharadamma—cradling the "red beauty" in her palms. It was the first landline phone I had ever seen. If one were to personify it, she was the centre of attraction. With ten rings adorning her round white necklace, she looked stunning—elegant in her own way.

Muttajji (great-grandmother) brought the receiver close to her ear, smiled, and said, "*Nange enu kelsthailla, vayassu aytu*" (I can't hear anything; I am getting old). She touched the phone all over, like a child exploring a new toy. This moment was nearly three decades ago, in my mother's *ajji mane*, a traditional house. Soon, the house itself came to be known as 'phone *mane*'—the house with the phone.

For the entire lane, the phone *mane* became a landmark. Neighbours, neighbours' neighbours, and even distant relatives would drop by to speak to their loved ones, at least once a fortnight. These calls were often followed by boxes of sweets celebrating the birth of a grandchild or by generous helpings of *kurk thindis* (crispy savouries). At times, we became part of someone's grief too—sharing tears over the loss of a dear one.

Landline phones transformed lives by connecting hearts. Mobile phones did even more. From the sturdy Nokia 1100 to sleek touchscreens that enable video calls, technology has evolved rapidly. But not everyone has kept pace. One such person was our domestic help, Susheelamma.

She had a charming way of remembering people—every household was identified by an emoji. I discovered this when she asked me to save my number on her phone with one. Over ten years of working in our home, she became family. Her stories, her laughter, and her morning presence were a comfort. She matched my mother-in-law's conversations with ease, and despite her frequent leaves, my mother-in-law eagerly awaited their daily chats.

Then, one day, Susheelamma didn't show up. Days passed. We grew worried. Every attempt to call her was met with the same message: "Not reachable." A week later, she returned our call. Her voice trembled as she told us that her father was terminally ill. She wanted to be with him in his final days.

I offered her one of my old touchscreen phones so she could video-call him. But the next day, she returned it, saying it was too difficult to manage and too fragile to keep safe. That evening, she came to say goodbye. She was leaving the city for good—to care for her father.

Before leaving, she said something that still echoes in my heart: "Touchscreens have replaced human touch and emotions. That's why we see humanity slowly disappearing. Phones will be new every day—but a father is only one in life."

Now, every morning, when my little one wakes up and asks, "Susheelamma *bandra*?" (Has Susheelamma come?) I am reminded of her words—and the irreplaceable warmth of human connection.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Is might the new international order?

I refer to "Do what's right': Trump warns new Venezuela leader' (Jan 5). America's attack on Venezuela exposes the hollowness of the so-called "rules-based international order". When a great power acts in its perceived national interest, neither the UN Security Council nor the General Assembly can restrain it. For India, the lesson is clear: in a real crisis, no multilateral institution will come to our rescue. Self-strengthening alone offers credible insurance. Venezuela ignored clear warning signs. The US operation against alleged drug-linked boats in September 2025, followed by repeated maritime strikes, was not an aberration but a prelude. History – from Crimea to Ukraine – shows that escalation is often signalled in advance. What we see is not international morality but the rule of the jungle, where might determines outcomes. Today it is Venezuela; tomorrow it could be Iran, Cuba, or Taiwan. India must draw the right conclusions.
K V Chandramouli, Mysuru

Public health failure

The reported deaths in Indore allegedly linked to contaminated drinking water are deeply disturbing and point to a grave failure of public health safeguards. Access to safe drinking water is a basic right, yet lapses in monitoring, treatment, and accountability continue to put lives at risk. Preventive measures, not post-tragedy responses, are essential to avoid such loss of life.
Vismaya Vivek, Bengaluru

Dreams and dangers

Apropos 'Illegal migration: Dreams abroad, dangers along the way' (Jan 4), a growing number of Indians are lured by agents promising easy jobs and permanent residency abroad, but the reality is often harsh. These migrants face treacherous journeys, exploitation, and the constant fear of arrest. The government must launch awareness campaigns in rural and semi-urban areas to educate people about the dangers of illegal migration. Strict action should be taken against fraudulent agents and trafficking networks. Expanding legal migration pathways, skill-development programmes, and creating job opportunities within the country can reduce the push factors.
N Sadhasiva Reddy, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

Under Siddaramaiah and D K Shivakumar, no action is taken against Muslims. This is happening because Congress is supporting Muslims. This government is for Muslims, not the public.

R Ashoka, Karnataka LoP and BJP leader

Divide and rule, subdivide and rule even more powerfully, fragment and rule absolutely.

Frank Herbert

TO BE PRECISE

Peace doctrine

IN PERSPECTIVE

The Governor in a power standoff

Federalist ethos and neutrality of the office are in question. Reform must start with the process of appointment

ROHINI PANDURANGI

Recently, the Governor and the Government of Kerala reached an understanding over the appointment of vice-chancellors to two state universities, facilitated by a committee appointed by the Supreme Court. The Court, while passing the order, formally recorded its appreciation for the manner in which the issue was resolved.

This drew a curtain to the long-standing court battle over the pendency of bills presented to the Governor. Similar cases had been filed by governments of Punjab and Tamil Nadu, and the latter resulted in a verdict by the Supreme Court fixing a deadline for assent to bills by the governor, only to be turned over in an advisory opinion on a Presidential reference. The political subtext here is the power tussle between the Centre and the states.

The exigencies at the time of independence necessitated a federation in which there was a preponderance of power in favour of the Centre. In the resulting union, the state governments played a subordinate role, as the Centre had predominance in the legislative, executive, and financial division of powers. Their operational freedom has been further reduced by the presence of governors appointed by the Centre.

Constitutionally, the position of the Governor is analogous to that of the President – a dignified presence, who functions as a nominal executive advised by the real executive. She is an apolitical person who has to step in and exercise her discretionary power only when there is an emergent situation like a hung assembly, the breakdown of constitutional machinery, or a situation where the government has lost the confidence of the legislature.

Regrettably, the office of the Governor has turned into an instrument of control. Irrespective of the party in power at the Centre, governors are invariably political appointees. According to the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-state relations, a person who is to be appointed a governor should be a detached figure, not intimately connected with the politics of the state. Instances of governors failing to maintain neutrality had to be addressed by the judiciary through landmark judgments of *Rameshwar Prasad v. Union of India* and *S R Bommai v. Union of India*. Governors keeping in abeyance the bills passed by legislatures have become a prevailing trend, necessitating judicial intervention.

In an evolved democracy, not only citizens but also the constituent units have autonomy. The governor playing the role of an agent of the Centre hinders cooperative federalism. Frequent standoffs between governors and governments hurt governance.

Push for accountability

The need for a governor as a constitutional head of the state is indisputable. But it is also imperative that the office of the governor is held to the democratic standards of transparency and accountability. The current method of appointment by the central government is a colonial-era relic, which should make way for appointment through a committee constituted for the purpose. This committee could comprise the Prime Minister, the Home Minister, and the Leader of the Opposition, apart from the Chief Minister and the Leader of the Opposition of the relevant state. Candidates could be selected from a panel of eminent persons nominated by both the central and state governments. A say in the matter for state governments would remove a major impediment.

In the current setup, governors are removed and transferred at the whims of the central government. Instituting a method of removal, the grounds for which could be a violation of the Constitution, with the state legislatures having a vote, would result in accountability.

As far as gubernatorial assent to bills passed by the state legislature is concerned, it is important that the governor withholds the assent, returns it with or without recommendations, or refers it to the President only when the bill may not be in the public interest or is against the constitutional or federal ethos. Recommendations to this effect have been made by the Sarkaria, Punchhi, and Venkatachalaiah commissions.

Alexander Hamilton, one of the founding fathers of the United States of America, said thus about the system of checks and balances in *The Federalist Papers* – "Power being almost always the rival of power, the general government will at all times stand ready to check the usurpations of the state governments, and these will have the same disposition towards the general government". This highlights the fact that checks and balances need to be built not only between the three branches but also between the Central and state governments. Reforming the governor's office would be one step in restoring the balance.

(The writer is an independent researcher)

A new normal: Governing by rule, not by law

K MAKKAR, S MUKHOPADHYAY, AND K D S CHAUHAN

Some union governments are remembered for implementing economic reforms, others for questionable defence deals, and yet others for their indecisiveness. The legacy of the current Union government will be its imagination—specifically, how it has reimagined ways to bypass parliamentary scrutiny of legislation and transformed the law-making process. For instance, with the three farm laws, the government craftily avoided debate and a poll in the Rajya Sabha and hastily passed the laws with a voice vote. Similarly, the methods employed to remove Article 370 of the Constitution were, at the very least, ingenious. It has also passed several non-financial laws, including on Aadhaar, as money Bills to circumvent the Rajya Sabha. Another such method has now come to light, involving delegated legislation.

This method involves framing rules and regulations ostensibly under the powers delegated to the government by a statute but which go far beyond the statute's scope. This often avoids parliamentary scrutiny altogether and allows the government to usurp the law-making powers reserved for Parliament or legislatures by the Constitution. While some of these rules and regulations are required to be presented before Parliament and could, theoretically, be discussed, modified, or rejected, they usually pass well below the radar. The government has now begun using this tool to effect sweeping changes in the law—changes that should ordinarily have been subjected to parliamentary processes and deliberations by elected representatives.

A recent example is the proposed amendment to the IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, aimed at regulating AI-generated content. The proposed amendment casts substantial obligations on entities providing generative AI services, as well as on significant social media entities, such as Facebook and YouTube, which host AI-generated content uploaded by users. These rules may be a well-meaning attempt to rein in misinformation and prevent personal and public harm caused by deepfakes. But attempting to do so through government rule-making under the IT Act, without any meaningful parliamentary debate, is imaginative at best and perverse at worst. This is not a procedural issue. The amendment effectively legislates on a subject as vital as freedom of speech and has far-reaching consequences. Yet, it does not follow the constitutional process designed for such matters.

The amendment is proposed to a set of rules—the 2021 rules—that impose requirements on platforms which, if complied with, grant immunity from liability for third-party content. Essentially, a platform remains free from liability for unlawful content hosted or transmitted through it, provided it complies with these rules. These rules were framed under Section 79 of the IT Act, popularly called the 'safe harbour' provision. The safe harbour was designed in 2000 to allow businesses to operate without fear of liability for hosting unlawful user-generated content. Accordingly, the rules framed under Section 79 impose certain duties on platforms as a condition for remaining liability-free.

The government has now proposed an amendment to these rules, implying that services such as ChatGPT, Gemini, and Perplexity will be eligible to remain liability-free if they police AI-generated content. For this, the government has prescribed certain duties of policing and designated generative AI service providers as entities eligible to obtain safe harbour. However, the safe harbour was designed for those entities which did not play a role in perpetuating unlawful content and acted as a mere conduit. It was not designed for services such as ChatGPT, Gemini, and Perplexity, which take users' content and materially transform it into something clearly distinguishable from the users' input.

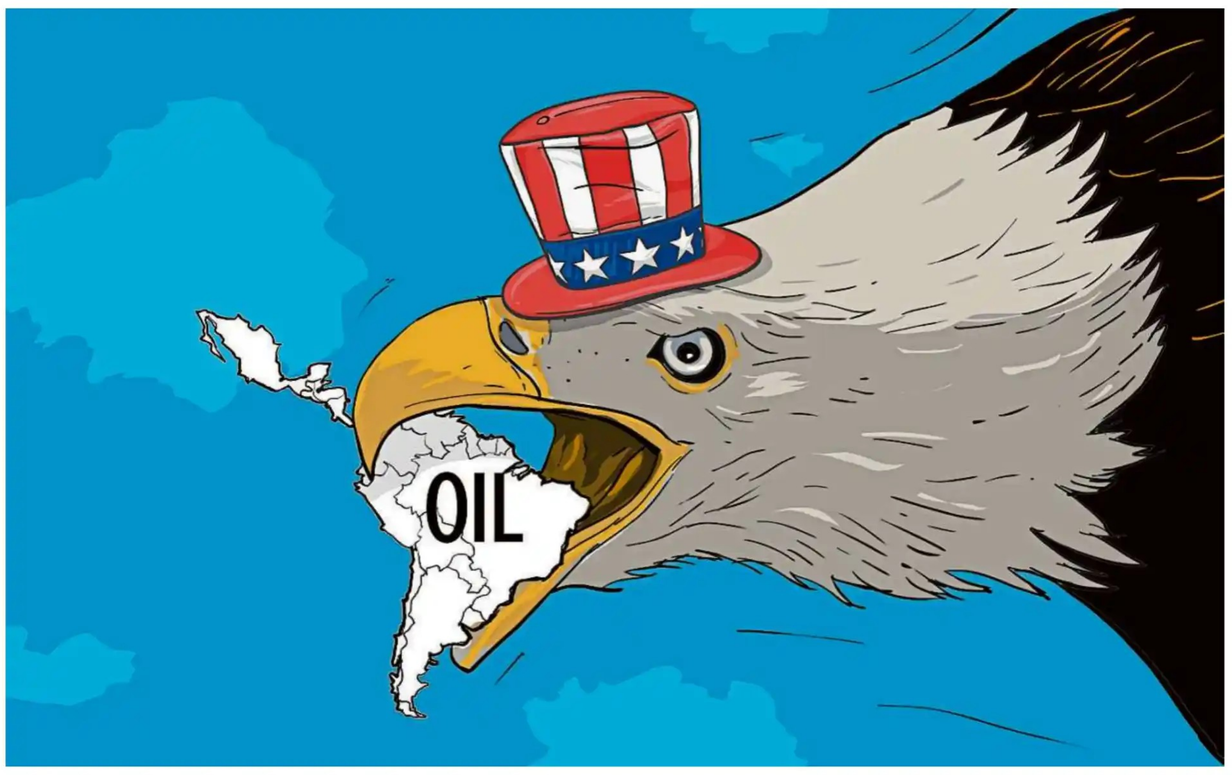
If the government seeks to treat the role performed by ChatGPT, Gemini, and Perplexity as that of a mere conduit, it is for Parliament to approve such a change. Parliament, when enacting the safe harbour provision, could not have envisaged the inclusion of these entities within its scope. Yet, the government has decided to bypass this discussion and is approaching this subject through rules that are unlikely to be debated in Parliament. As a result, an important discussion on artificial intelligence—a subject that will define the latter part of this century—has been effectively bypassed from parliamentary consideration.

It is immaterial what might have happened had the matter been placed before Parliament, or whether the government would ultimately have prevailed. Ideally, Parliament should serve as a forum to consider issues on the horizon, evaluate ways ahead, debate and deliberate on views of different stakeholders, and choose the best path for our society. Even if the Parliament is unable to perform these functions satisfactorily, or if the end result remains unchanged due to a parliamentary majority enjoyed by the ruling dispensation, the act of the government sending proposals for legal changes with wide ramifications to the Parliament for necessary action is itself important, as it vindicates values of representative democracy and separation of powers enshrined in the Constitution, enables effective regulation, develops citizen confidence, builds business trust, and is the foundation for sound judicial decision-making. A bypass through rules is, ultimately, a bypass of these values.

(The writers teach law at O P Jindal Global University)

The US president's focus on exploiting Venezuela's oil resources and on regional dominance raises concerns about a new era of interventionism

JACK NICAS



DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

Maduro's capture shows Trump's goal to dominate the Americas

The city went dark. The air defences were disabled. Explosions rang out. And under the night sky, a fleet of American helicopters swooped in and captured the president.

Hours later, when celebrating the US government's seizure of Venezuela's leader, Nicolás Maduro, President Donald Trump mentioned Venezuela's oil 20 times.

The moment shook Latin America perhaps more than any single event this century — but its meaning depends on whom you ask.

To the Latin American left, it confirmed what certain leaders have been warning for decades: The United States is an imperial power willing to invade and exploit its southern neighbours for its own gains and their natural resources.

To the Latin American right, Trump had just rescued a broken Venezuela from a leftist dictatorship and now would finally realise the nation's immense economic potential.

Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Chile, Spain and Uruguay — all led by leftists — jointly denounced the bombings and capture as "an extremely dangerous precedent" and warned against "any attempt at governmental control, administration, or external appropriation of natural or strategic resources" in Venezuela.

President Javier Milei of Argentina, the region's most prominent right-wing leader, cheered the US action. "There's no middle ground here," he said. "You are either on the side of GOOD, or you are on the side of EVIL."

What everyone can agree on is that the intervention showed that the United States is once again the centre of gravity in Latin America, for better or worse.

Trump is among them. "The Monroe Doctrine is a big deal, but we've superseded it by a lot, by a real lot. They now call it the Donroe Doctrine," he said on Saturday, referring to the 1823 policy of President James Monroe that sought to stop European powers from meddling in the Americas. "Under our new national security strategy, American dominance in the Western Hemisphere will never be questioned again."

In the 30 years before the current Trump administration, US foreign policy in Latin America had largely focused on supporting democracy and free trade.

Trump has overhauled that approach to focus on what is in it for the United States — or, in many cases, for him.

He imposed tariffs on Brazil in a failed bid to save his ally, former President Jair Bolsonaro, from prison. He applied sanctions on Colombia's president after he criticised US policy. He endorsed a right-wing candidate in Honduras in a surprise that may have tipped the election. And he gave Argentina a $20 billion lifeline to help Milei in legislative elections.

Those actions unsettled many in Latin America, reminding them of Washington's long history of interventions in the region, like its invasions of Mexico, Panama and Haiti, and its support for military coups.

"Thinking as a region, this is scary in a way I haven't seen for a long time," said Celso Amorim, the top foreign policy adviser to President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of Brazil and one of the most experienced government officials in Latin America, having served at various times as Brazil's foreign minister, defence minister and special adviser over a span of 16 years.

"The most serious thing to me is that this return to interventionism isn't even disguised," he said in an interview. "There isn't even a, let's say, 'No, we went there to defend democracy.' There is an objective that is obviously economic."

Lula, Latin America's most influential statesman, held two separate meetings with his ministers about the US attack Saturday, according to the Brazilian government. He then issued a particularly stern critique, saying Washington's actions "cross an unacceptable line" and that "the international community, through the United Nations, must respond forcefully."

On Sunday, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States — the main multilateral organisation for the region — held an emergency meeting to address the situation in Venezuela. Many nations led by leftists sent their foreign ministers, while others led by conservative leaders sent more junior diplomats.

At the meeting, Venezuela's foreign minister, Yván Gil, warned that the rest of Latin America should be worried. "This attack is not only against Venezuela; it is an attack against Latin America and the Caribbean," he said to the group of 33 nations. "Today it may be Venezuela; tomorrow it could be any other country that decides to exercise its sovereignty."

Many Latin Americans disagreed. The Maduro government was corrupt and repressive, they said, and that drew the anger of the US government. "To all the narco-Chavista criminals, your time is coming," President Daniel Noboa of Ecuador said Saturday, referring to followers of Maduro's socialist predecessor, Hugo Chávez. "Your structure will completely collapse across the entire continent."

Yet whether nations will do more than issue angry statements remains to be seen. The United States is the most crucial economic partner for much of the region, and Trump has proved willing to intervene economically, politically and now militarily against countries that cross him.

"I think we're at a low point of inter-American diplomacy because all countries have turned inward, and all countries are developing transactional approaches to their relationship with this administration," said Arturo Sarukhán, a former Mexican ambassador to the United States. Given the growing partisan divide across the region, he added, "I think it's going to be very hard to see a muscular approach by Latin American and Caribbean nations to this."

The response from President Claudia Sheinbaum of Mexico illustrated that political tightrope.

While she condemned the Venezuela attack, Sheinbaum did so more diplomatically than several of her peers. Consider that at the same time on Saturday, Trump was once again warning that Mexican cartels could be his next military target.

Brazil, however, is much farther from the United States and its No 1 trading partner is now China. That has enabled Lula to take a far more bellicose approach to Trump — which has yielded positive results for Brazil.

Amorim suggested that Trump's policies could push other countries toward China. Interventions "are going to have the opposite effect of what the United States wants," he said. Nations "will increasingly have to look for counterbalances, so as not to let themselves get involved in this type of situation."

What seems most likely now is that Latin America's conflicting opinions on Venezuela — and each nation's efforts for self-preservation — will lead to little cohesive action. Sarukhán said it would likely take a full-scale occupation of Venezuela to spur more than statements.

That also means a potential emboldening of Trump.

Over the past year, his actions in Latin America have become more aggressive. That has left many nations struggling with what to make of his tough talk.

Hours after watching the US military pull off a successful operation in Venezuela, he already was suggesting that Cuba could be next. "I think Cuba is going to be something we'll end up talking about, because Cuba is a failing nation," he told reporters Saturday.

On Sunday morning, in a phone call with *The Atlantic*, he said, "We do need Greenland, absolutely."

By Sunday night, he had another target in the hemisphere in mind.

"He's not going to be doing it for very long,'" Trump said of Colombia's president, Gustavo Petro, who has frequently criticized Trump. "He has cocaine mills and cocaine factories."

Asked whether the US would conduct an operation against Colombia, he replied, "It sounds good to me."

The New York Times

State outsourcing: A conscience check

D JEEVAN KUMAR

Recent media reports indicating that nearly one lakh posts in the Karnataka government are being managed by outsourced personnel draw attention to a significant but under-discussed transformation in public employment. If one includes the growing number of temporary and contract-based teachers in public universities and government colleges, the scale of employment insecurity within the State becomes even more striking.

This is not a peculiarity of Karnataka alone. Across Indian states, and within the Union government, outsourcing has quietly emerged as a default response to long-pending vacancies, delayed recruitment, and fiscal anxieties. The result is a paradox: the responsibilities of government have expanded, but the willingness to offer secure public employment has steadily declined.

Available parliamentary responses and audit observations suggest that several lakh personnel work on outsourced or contractual terms under the Government of India, spanning ministries, autonomous bodies, and public sector undertakings. Security staff, sanitation workers, drivers, data entry operators, IT support personnel, paramedical staff, and even teaching faculty increasingly operate without job security, pensions, or structured grievance redress.

What is noteworthy is that outsourcing has not followed any conscious downsizing of government functions. The State has not withdrawn from service delivery; it has merely withdrawn from its role as a long-term employer.

This shift has its intellectual roots in New Public Management (NPM), a governance philosophy that gained prominence in the West from the 1980s. NPM advocated a "lean" State, managerial efficiency, outsourcing, and contractual employment, borrowing heavily from private-sector practices. India, by contrast, has adopted outsourcing without the institutional safeguards, strong regulation, or corrective feedback loops seen in mature administrative systems.

Outsourcing is less the result of deliberate administrative reform and more a consequence of persistent failure to fill sanctioned posts. Recruitment examinations are delayed for years, litigation stalls appointments, cadre reviews are infrequent, and political reluctance to expand permanent staffing persists.

Outsourcing thus becomes a convenient workaround—initially temporary, eventually permanent—allowing governments to function without addressing deeper systemic issues.

The ethical implications are difficult to ignore. Can the State, which regulates labour standards, legitimately rely on precarious employment for its own functioning? Outsourced workers often perform identical tasks as regular employees but receive lower wages, lack social security, and face arbitrary termination through contractors.

This undermines the principle of equal pay for equal work and weakens the State's moral authority as an enforcer of labour rights. In advanced welfare States, governments remain among the most regulated employers precisely because they are expected to lead by example.

India's post-Independence vision of public employment was not merely administrative; it was social and constitutional. Government jobs provided stability, social mobility, and a measure of dignity in a deeply unequal society. The State was expected to be an ideal employer, setting standards for fairness and security.

There are also serious administrative costs. High turnover among outsourced staff erodes institutional memory. Accountability becomes diffused, as workers answer to private contractors rather than public authorities. A two-tier bureaucracy emerges, breeding resentment and inefficiency. In sectors such as education, health, and local administration, employment instability directly affects service quality.

Outsourcing may have a limited role in peripheral or short-term services. But it cannot become the backbone of governance. What is required is a return to first principles: time-bound filling of vacancies, regular cadre reviews aligned with service delivery needs, clear limits on outsourcing in core government functions, and minimum social security guarantees for all workers engaged by the State. At stake is not merely a staffing strategy but the character of the Indian State. A government that speaks the language of welfare while normalising insecure employment risks institutional contradiction.

For a state that has long prided itself on progressive administration, social justice, and a strong public sector tradition, Karnataka's growing dependence on outsourced labour should prompt serious moral introspection. From the legacy of principled public service to its reputation as a leader in education and welfare, the state has historically viewed government employment as an instrument of dignity, inclusion, and stability. Normalising precarious employment within government undermines this legacy.

(The writer is an Hon. Professor at Mahatma Gandhi Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University, Gadag)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: JANUARY 1976

Sivaji Ganesan to join Cong

Madras, Jan. 5
Film star Sivaji Ganesan, a supporter of the Congress (O), today announced his decision to join the Congress. Mr. Ganesan told pressmen that he would do so along with other Congress (O) comrades now under the leadership of Mr. B. Mahadevan Pillai. Strongly pleading for the merger of the two Congress parties in Tamil Nadu to strengthen the nationalist forces in the country, Mr. Ganesan said a strong Government at the Centre and the like-minded nationalist Governments in the States had become imperative in this hour of crisis.

25 YEARS AGO: JANUARY 2001

18 Trinamool workers in W Bengal 'burnt alive'

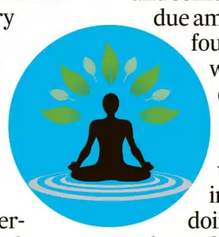
Calcutta, Jan 5
Close on the heels of Wednesday's violence in Keshpur, Midnapore, at least 18 Trinamool Congress workers were allegedly burnt alive by the rival CPI(M) supporters at Chotoangaria village last night, triggering a fresh wave of tension and a demand for the resignation of Chief Minister Mr Buddhadev Bhattacharya, by the Opposition Trinamool. Party chief, Ms Mamata Banerjee, alleged that Trinamool supporters who were returning home from the relief camp were chased by armed CPI(M) supporters.

OASIS | PRIYA ANAND

When pride tips the balance

During summer vacations, visiting a few of our relatives' places was mandatory. The routine trip included the house of one of our uncles who was prosperous but wasn't among our likeable ones, as his biting remarks would hurt people. He owned a majestic house nestled between sprawling gardens on either side, where he hosted several celebrities. During his heyday, his home was abuzz with servants who kept it spotless. Dogs guarding the gates as well as indoors posed challenges to anyone visiting.

Our visits became mere formalities, and we kept them short. As children, we never spoke and were not allowed to interact much. After his retirement, the number of visitors reduced. Within a year, the house bore a desolate look with not much greenery around. His arrogance and his habit of belittling others were never subdued. His pride kept many relatives and colleagues at bay. When he passed away, few came to pay the honours. Arrogance is like a strong perfume. When you use too much, people walk away.



There was once a farmer who went to the town every week to sell butter. The butter balls, usually weighing a kilo, were sold to a known trader, who in return gave him sugar, flour and some essential groceries for the due amount. One week, the trader found the size of the butterball was smaller than the earlier ones. He wanted to weigh and check. He became furious when he found that the butter was less than a kilo in weight. He decided to stop doing business with the farmer henceforth and informed all his men to not interact with him.

The following week, the farmer was promptly stopped by the trader at the main square, saying he was a cheat. He announced that the butter weighed only 900 grams instead of a kilo. He informed the townspeople to avoid dealing with the farmer, as he didn't practise fair trade. The farmer pleaded and said that he was poor and didn't have money to buy several weights and measures. Every week, his wife would weigh the butter by placing the one-kilo sugar packet received from the trader on the other side of the balance and set the butter accordingly. The trader was ashamed at his arrogance. In the words of Steve Jobs... "All of us need to be on guard against arrogance, which knocks at the door whenever you are successful."

Feb 2020: Delhi Riots amid anti-CAA protests, FIR filed against Khalid and others

Oct 2020: Second FIR filed

April 2021: Khalid obtains bail from sessions court in 2nd FIR; denied bail in 1st FIR

July 2021: Khalid seeks bail before sessions court

Mar 2022: Court rejects bail plea

April 2022 : Delhi HC decides to hear both Khalid and Sharjeel Imam's appeals together

Oct 2022: HC rejects Khalid's bail plea

Dec 2022: Khalid gets week-long bail to attend sister's wedding

April 2023 Khalid files SLP in SC against HC denying bail

February 2024 Khalid withdraws his petition from SC

May 2024: Khalid applies for bail at trial court, application rejected

July 2024: Khalid again approaches HC

Dec 2024 Khalid gets 7-day interim bail to attend a marriage

Sep 2025 Delhi HC rejects bail for Khalid and 8 other accused, Khalid again approaches SC

Jan 2026: Bail plea rejected

2020 DELHI RIOTS CASE: Court cites role as alleged architects of conspiracy in bail denial

Khalid, Imam on 'different footing', says SC

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Rejecting the bail pleas of former JNU students Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam, the Supreme Court said that they stand on a "qualitatively different footing" from the other accused, both in the prosecution's narrative and in the evidentiary basis relied upon in the case related to the larger conspiracy behind the 2020 Delhi riots.

A bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and NV Anjaria said that the continued detention of those alleged to be the architects of the conspiracy may be necessary to safeguard broader security interests and deter future acts, whereas the rationale for the continued incarceration of minor participants becomes comparatively weaker once the investigative purpose is exhausted.

"This structural distinction cannot be ignored and must inform any judicial determination relating to culpability, parity or the applicability of penal provisions requiring a heightened threshold of intent and participation," it said.

In the case of both Khalid and Imam, the court held that reasonable grounds existed to believe the accusations against them were prima facie true.

The court observed that treating all accused identically, irrespective of their roles, would risk transforming pre-trial detention into a punitive mechanism divorced from individual circumstances.

"The constitutional mandate demands a differentiated inquiry: where prolonged custody disproportionately burdens those whose roles are limited, the balance between individual liberty and collective security may call for conditional release, while the same balance may tilt differently for those alleged to have orchestrated the offence," it said.

The court found the material relied upon against the duo was predominantly in the nature of speeches, meetings, digital communications and alleged strategic deliberations, commencing immediately after the passage of the Citizenship Amendment Act.

The court noted the chargesheets attributed to Khalid and Imam the role of formulating the protest strategy—including the alleged transition from sit-in demonstrations to chakka jams, the selection of locations and the articulation of the broader political objectives sought to be advanced. Their alleged acts were thus situated at the planning and preparatory stage, extending over a prolonged period.

The remaining accused — Gulfisha Fatima, Meeran Haider, Shifa-ur-Rehman, Mohd Saleem Khan, Shadab Ahmad, Athar Khan, and others — were consistently described as local-level facilitators. Their role primarily related to on-ground mobilisation, logistical coordination, local-level funding, stockpiling of materials and execution of directions allegedly received, rather than the formulation of the overarching strategy, the bench recorded.

"Accordingly, the material placed on record, when examined in its entirety, establishes that Khalid and Imam stand on a qualitatively different footing from the remaining accused, both in the prosecution narrative and in the evidentiary basis relied upon. This structural distinction cannot be ignored and must inform any judicial determination relating to culpability, parity, or the applicability of penal provisions requiring a heightened threshold of intent and participation," it said.

THE RATIONALE

- SC distinguishes between strategists and facilitators in Delhi riots case
- Prolonged custody justified for planners of conspiracy
- Says continued detention needed to safeguard broader security interests

SUPREME COURT

"The guarantee of liberty enshrined under Article 21 of the Constitution is of foundational importance, but the security of the community, the integrity of the trial process and the preservation of public order are equally legitimate constitutional concerns.

Role attributed to each accused by the Delhi Police

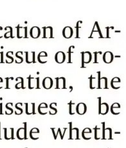
UMAR KHALID

The Delhi riots were allegedly the result of a pre-planned conspiracy led by Umar Khalid and his associates.

Khalid allegedly delivered provocative speeches urging road blockades during US President Donald Trump's visit on 24–25 February 2020, with the stated aim of internationalising claims of minority persecution in India.

Khalid held a secret meeting in Seelampur in January 2020 with Gulfisha Fatima, Natasha Narwal, Devangana Kalita, and others, instructing them to mobilise local women and stockpile weapons and incendiary materials to engineer riots.

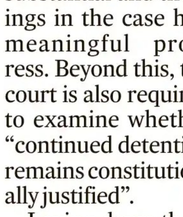
SHARJEEL IMAM



Sharjeel Imam was allegedly involved in mobilisation, radicalisation, and preparation through organised chakka jams, arterial road blockades, and disruption of essential services.

He allegedly created and administered the WhatsApp group "Muslim Students of JNU" to coordinate mobilisation and identify protest sites, and participated in conspiratorial meetings at Jangpura and within JNU.

Imam's role allegedly extended beyond Delhi, including travel to Aligarh, and he played a foundational role in establishing and sustaining the Shaheen Bagh protest, which became a prolonged 24×7 arterial road blockade.

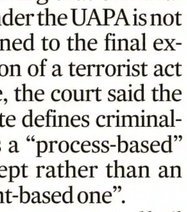


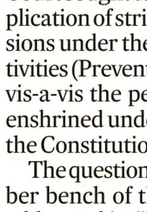
GULFISHA FATIMA

Fatima was allegedly a key coordinator who helped turn sit-ins violent.

MEERAN HAIDER

A member of the Jamia Coordination Committee (JCC), he was alleged to have overseen multiple all-day protest sites, collected funds, and encouraged protesters to attack police and non-Muslims.



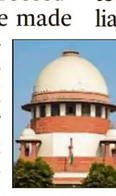


SHIFA UR REHMAN

Being the president of the Alumni Association of Jamia Millia Islamia and a member of the JCC, he allegedly functioned as a key financier and logistic facilitator of the protest sites.

MOHD SALEEM KHAN

He allegedly played a pivotal local role in executing the conspiracy at Chand Bagh and adjoining areas.



SHADAB AHMAD

Shadab Ahmad allegedly coordinated with core conspirators to escalate protests into chakka jams and violent riots, particularly in Chand Bagh.

Court balances liberty with national security

SUMIT PANDE
NEW DELHI, DHNS

In deciding the bail application of the accused in the Delhi 2020 riots case, the Supreme Court sought to define the application of stricter bail provisions under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, vis-a-vis the personal liberty enshrined under Article 21 of the Constitution.

The question the two-member bench of the apex court addressed is: "How is Article 21 to be applied where Parliament has expressly conditioned the grant of bail in relation to offences alleged to implicate national security?"

Section 43D(5) of the UAPA has stricter bail provisions, and bail can be denied if the court, on the perusal of the case diary, finds "there are reasonable grounds for believing that the accusations against such a person are prima facie true".

On the application of Article 21 and the issue of prolonged incarceration, the court said the issues to be considered include whether the custody undergone is substantial and the proceedings in the case have made meaningful progress. Beyond this, the court is also required to examine whether "continued detention remains constitutionally justified".

Laying down the "governing approach" in dealing with bail applications in UAPA cases, the court points to scrutiny of various facets, like the gravity of the offence, the role attributed to the accused, and the extent to which continued incarceration has become "demonstrably disproportionate". Bail may be granted if the "composite evaluation" of all these factors leads to the conclusion that the detention has "crossed boundaries" of personal liberty.

But it also recognised that the threat sought to be addressed by the UAPA often materialises long before any overt act of violence is committed. Observing that criminal liability under the UAPA is not confined to the final execution of a terrorist act alone, the court said the statute defines criminality as a "process-based" concept rather than an "event-based one".

Thus, the court granted bail to applicants except Khalid and Imam, whom the prosecution called the "alleged masterminds".

In its interpretation of Section 43D(3) of the UAPA, the SC observed that the anti-terror statute "does not permit a collective or undifferentiated approach to bail" as it becomes necessary to distinguish between the existence of a conspiracy and the position occupied by an accused.

'This is my life now': Umar Khalid's long wait

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Incarcerated for nearly five years in connection with the 2020 Delhi riots conspiracy case, student activist Umar Khalid was once again denied bail by the Supreme Court on Monday. The apex court ruled that Khalid, along with Sharjeel Imam, will not be allowed to apply for bail for a year. On hearing the order, Khalid appeared resigned to his fate, saying, "Ab yehi zindagi hai" (this is my life now).

His partner Banjyotsna Lahiri shared a brief exchange between them on social media. Khalid had also said, "I am really happy for the others who got bail! So relieved."

The outspoken history student from Jawaharlal Nehru University, who identified as a communist and a non-practising Muslim, first burst into national imagination in 2016 when protests over the suicide of Dalit scholar Rohith Vemula roiled the campus. Along with Khalid, two other students became the face of the tense standoff between the student community and the BJP government — Kanhaiya Kumar and Shehla Rashid. Kanhaiya is now a Congress leader, while Shehla has since had a change of heart and is today a vocal supporter of the BJP.

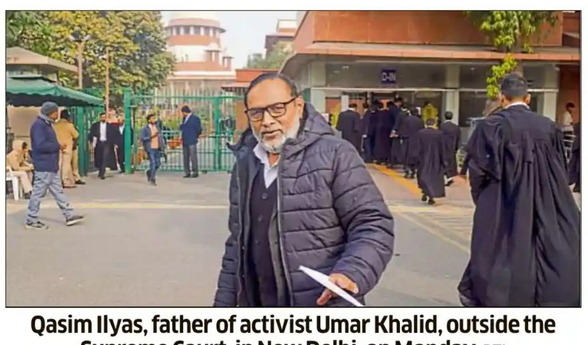
Khalid later joined protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act and the National Register of Citizens, which spread across the country. The protests culminated in the Delhi riots of 2020, which left 50 dead and more than 700 injured. Charged under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Khalid was eventually arrested along with others for allegedly conspiring in the violence. The charges are yet to be proven in court, as the trial has not begun.

In a video recorded before his arrest, Khalid had said that it was a political conspiracy. "The Delhi Police, in its probe into the riots, have not once questioned the actual rioters... but they are arresting young students under false pretexts. Anyone critical of this government, and especially of the NRC and CAA, has been put behind bars," he is heard saying in the video.

His father Syed Qasim Rasool Ilyas, a spokesperson of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board and a leader of the Welfare Party of India, refused to comment after the court's order. "I have no comment to offer. It is very unfortunate. The judgment is there, and I have nothing to say about it," he told reporters outside the court.

Ilyas, who has been dragged into the conversation time and again as he had been a former member of the banned Islamist organisation SIMI in the early 80s before he left it, had earlier said that his son has been targeted due to his ideology.

While he has faced backlash within the country, Khalid has also found support from unlikely quarters. New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani wrote a letter to him, saying he "thinks" about Khalid's words, a gesture that drew mixed reactions. Soon after, eight US lawmakers also extended their support.



Qasim Ilyas, father of activist Umar Khalid, outside the Supreme Court, in New Delhi, on Monday. PTI

India urges citizens to avoid non-essential travel to Iran

NEW DELHI, PTI: India on Monday urged its nationals to avoid non-essential travel to Iran as the country has been rocked by a wave of protests over inflation and currency devaluation.

New Delhi also advised Indian citizens in Iran to exercise due caution and avoid travelling to areas witnessing protests or demonstrations.

"In view of recent developments, Indian nationals are advised to avoid non-essential travel to the Islamic Republic of Iran until further notice," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

"Indian citizens and PIOs (Persons of Indian Origin), currently in Iran, should exercise due caution, avoid areas of protests or demonstrations, and closely monitor news as well as the website and social media handles of the embassy of India in Tehran," it said.

The MEA also advised Indian nationals living in Iran on resident visas to register with the embassy, if not already done so.

The protests against worsening economic conditions began in Tehran around nine days back.

The protests were triggered by a sharp fall in the value of the Iranian currency, Rial, against the US dollar.

Last week, US President Donald Trump warned Iran against a crackdown on protesters.

"We are locked and loaded and ready to go," he said in a post on social media without elaborating.

Trump on Sunday night said Iran would be "hit very hard" if more protesters died. "We're watching it very closely. If they start killing people like they have in the past, I think they're going to get hit very hard by the United States," he said.

KCR's daughter Kavitha quits BRS, plans new party

HYDERABAD, DHNS: The daughter of K Chandrashekar Rao's, MLC K Kavitha, on Monday announced plans to launch a new political party by the next Assembly elections, three years away.

In an emotional address to the Legislative Council, Kavitha told critics that she quit BRS not over Congress-alleged property disputes, but for self-respect.

"Jagruti is growing into a political party by the next Assembly elections. Standing and fighting for Telangana's people, it will emerge as a force to reckon with," she said.

"Left party brothers and those wanting a party that functions within democratic norms support me. Lakhs of Telangana activists received no respect in TRS. Thousands of posts existed, yet they got no positions. Women who participated in the movement received no opportunities," she said.

Kavitha delivered a tearful farewell speech in the Legislative Council, formally resigning from the House and parting ways with BRS. Recounting her journey since joining the Telangana movement in 2006, she highlighted her work through Telangana Jagruthi, which mobilised women and youth, preserved Telangana culture, documented its history, and fought for marginalised communities.

Court doesn't proceed on identity, ideology or belief: SC

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday emphasised that the Constitution guarantees personal liberty, but it does not conceive this as an isolated or absolute entitlement, detached from the security of the society in which it operates.

"The sovereignty, integrity, and security of the nation, as well as the preservation of public order, are not abstract concerns; rather, they are constitutional values which Parliament is entitled to protect through law.

Where a special statutory framework has been enacted to address offences perceived to strike at these foundations, courts are duty-bound to give effect to that framework, subject always to constitutional discipline," a bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and N V Anjaria said.

In its judgment, declining bail to activist Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam, the judges underscored that, in the application of such law, the court does not proceed on identity, ideology, belief, or association.

The court also said that this decision neither endorses the prosecution's case nor prejudges the guilt of any accused. "It applies the law as it stands, recognising that individual liberty must be protected, but that it must also withstand the legitimate demands of national security and collective safety," the bench said.

Raises troubling questions: Opposition

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Opposition leaders on Monday questioned the denial of bail to activists Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam in the 2020 Delhi riots conspiracy case by the Supreme Court and claimed that 'bail is the rule and jail the exception' dictum apply only to certain individuals, while pointing out to rape convict Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim being repeatedly granted parole.

Senior RJD MP Manoj K Jha said it is true that constitutional courts have the power and indeed the duty to grant bail where incarceration becomes unduly long, unjustified, or disproportionate.

"Yet, in the case of Umar Khalid and Sharjeel, the prevailing judicial view seems to be that the time already spent in jail is still not long enough, and that the delay in trial is not yet shocking or unconstitutional. This raises troubling questions about how much incarceration must be endured before constitutional protections are activated and achieved," he said.

CPM's Rajya Sabha member John Brittas said, "The principle that 'bail is the rule, jail the exception' clearly does not apply when it comes to certain individuals. No bail to Umar—detained for over five years under the UAPA, with the trial yet to even begin. Pre-trial jail is not a punishment."

"Meanwhile, convicted rapist and murderer Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh has just been granted yet another 40-day parole -- his 15th temporary release from prison since conviction. One languishes without trial. The other enjoys 'jail vacations'," he added.

The CPM in a post on X said the denial of bail to Khalid and Imam is against the principles of natural justice.

IN CONTRAST...

Rape convict **Gurmeet Ram Rahim**, the chief of Dera Sacha Sauda, got parole 15 times in 5 years

Oct 2020: 1 day	**Jan 2023:** 40 days	**Oct 2024:** 20 days
May 2021: 12 hours	**Jul 2023:** 30 days	**Jan 2025:** 30 days
Feb 2022: 21 days	**Nov 2023:** 21 days	**Apr 2025:** 21 days
Jun 2022: 30 days	**Jan 2024:** 50 days	**Aug 2025:** 40 days
Oct 2022: 40 days	**Aug 2024:** 21 days	**Jan 2026:** 40 days

Gurmeet Ram Rahim was sentenced to **20 years in jail** in August 2017 for the rape of two of his disciples. In 2019, he was convicted in the murder of a journalist. He was also convicted in 2021 in the case of the murder of a Dera manager, but was later acquitted by the high court.

Big slap on Cong's face: BJP

NEW DELHI, PTI: The BJP on Monday said the Supreme Court order denying bail to Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam is a "big slap" on the Congress' face and demanded that it apologise for supporting the "tukde-tukde gang".

Calling Khalid and Imam the "poster boys" of divisive forces in India, the BJP claimed that the Congress ecosystem was projecting them as "innocent victims" to protect them.

Latching on to the SC's decision, BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla asked, "When such a major and clear decision has already come from the Supreme Court, will the Congress rub its nose on the ground and apologise to the families of Ankit Sharma, Ratan Lal, and Dilbar Negi who were killed in Delhi?"

He also asked the Samajwadi Party, the Trinamool and the AAP if they would apologise to the families of the Hindus killed in the riots. Poonawalla alleged that the Delhi riots were an example of the "biggest industry of anti-Hindu sentiment, the 'M' factor and the vote-bank factor".

In a post on X, Poonawalla wrote, "Satyameva Jayate (truth alone triumphs)". The Congress must apologise for its support to the "tukde-tukde gang, from Afzal to Umar and Sharjeel", Poonawalla said.

BJP national spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari termed the SC's decision a "big slap" on the face of Rahul Gandhi and the Congress ecosystem, alleging that they portrayed "tukde-tukde poster boys Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam as innocent victims".

In the court of public opinion and the court of law, Gandhi's "urban Naxals" stand defeated, he charged. Bhandari said, "Will the Congress apologise to the nation to project tukde-tukde forces inimical to India as victims?"

The BJP often uses the "tukde-tukde gang" phrase, coined in the aftermath of a JNU protest in Delhi in 2016 where anti-national slogans were allegedly raised, to refer to elements it claims want to break the country.

SHEHZAD POONAWALLA
BJP spokesperson

"The Congress must apologise for its support to the tukde-tukde gang, from Afzal to Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA
Assam Chief Minister

"The bail plea of the member of the 'Tukde-Tukde Gang' who had threatened to secede the Northeast from India has been rejected by SC.

Telugu woman murdered in US; ex-boyfriend on the run

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

A 27-year-old woman from Secunderabad, Nikitha Godishala, who was reported missing in the US since December 31, was found murdered at her former roommate's apartment.

Her family alleged a financial dispute with her former roommate and ex-boyfriend, Arjun Sharma, led to the killing, prompting an international manhunt.

Nikitha, who was living in Ellicott City, Maryland, was found dead with stab wounds inside Arjun Sharma's Columbia apartment on January 3.

The Howard County Police Department believes she was killed on the night of December 31, shortly after going missing on New Year's Eve.

They have obtained an arrest warrant charging Sharma (26) with first and second-degree murder.

Police said Sharma reported Nikitha missing on January 2, claiming he last saw her on December 31, but later found that he left the United States for India the same day he filed the complaint.

A subsequent search of his apartment on January 3 led to the discovery of Nikitha's body with multiple stab wounds and other injuries, prompting an international manhunt with US federal agencies coordinating with Indian authorities to trace and arrest him.

The Indian Embassy in Washington has said it is in contact with Nikitha's family and is extending all possible consular assistance.

"My daughter had no ongoing relationship with Arjun Sharma and they had earlier shared accommodation only as roommates along with other friends. Arjun killed her following a quarrel over money. I urge both the Centre and the state government to intervene to bring her body back and ensure stringent punishment for the accused," said Nikitha's father, Anand, in Secunderabad on Monday.

SC relief for corruption-accused MP judicial officer

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday set aside the dismissal of a Madhya Pradesh judicial officer, Nirbhay Singh Suliya, on corruption charges, and expressed displeasure over an increasing trend of frivolous allegations being levelled against judicial officers at the behest of disgruntled elements.

Emphasising the need for protecting such officers, a bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and K V Viswanathan quashed the September 2015 termination order and the high court order upholding it.

Suliya was accused of adopting different yardsticks in granting bail to those accused under the Excise Act and indulging in corrupt practices.

However, it found that the judicial officer was terminated without following due process after serving the judiciary for 27 years with an "unblemished" career record.

Writing for the bench, Justice Vishwanathan emphasised: "Due care and caution must be exercised by HCs in initiating disciplinary proceedings against judicial officers just because of their conflicting judicial orders. It should be ensured that only because an order is wrong or there is an error of judgement without anything more, judicial officers are not put through the ordeal of such proceedings."

In the case, the court ordered that the appellant be deemed to have continued till the normal age of superannuation with full back wages.

Venezuela's Maduro, wife were Sathya Sai followers

Couple made a discreet visit to Prashanthi Nilayam in Andhra in 2005 to seek blessings

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Ousted Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores, now in US custody, were longtime devotees of spiritual leader Sri Sathya Sai Baba. In 2005, the couple made a discreet visit to Prashanthi Nilayam — Sai Baba's ashram in Andhra Pradesh's Puttaparthi — to seek his blessings.

At the time, Maduro was serving as Venezuela's foreign affairs minister, while Flores headed the legislature. It is also understood that Maduro conveyed a personal message during the centenary birth celebrations of Sai Baba held in November last year.

"When he visited in 2005, Baba granted him and his family an audience. A founder of the Fifth Republic Movement, Maduro has always kept a photograph of Baba in his office

Nicolás Maduro (foreground, left) referred to Sathya Sai Baba as a 'being of light'.

and has enjoyed an illustrious career," the Sathya Sai Central Trust noted in April 2013, when Maduro was first announced as interim president of Venezuela.

In his message last November, Maduro referred to Sai Baba as a "being of light", recalling their meeting with reverence. "I always remember him when we met. May the wisdom of this great teacher continue to enlighten us," he wrote.

The Sai Trust said that Venezuela holds a special place among the 113 countries where the Sathya Sai movement is active. The first Sai Centre was inaugurated in Caracas in 1974, followed by the first Education in Human Values (EHV) teachers' workshop in 1987.

When Sathya Sai Baba passed away in April 2011, under Maduro's influence as then foreign minister, the Venezuelan National Assembly passed an official Condolence Resolution. The government declared a day of national mourning, formally recognising Sai Baba's impact on the Venezuelan people.

It is believed that Flores introduced Maduro to the teachings of Sai Baba. In the President's private office, Maduro kept a large framed portrait of Sathya Sai Baba.

Venezuelan Executive Vice President Delcy Rodríguez, who has been named interim president, is also a devoted follower of Sathya Sai Baba. She has visited the Prasanthi Nilayam ashram on several occasions. Her most recent visit was in October 2024.

SC rejects plea against PM's chadar offering at Ajmer dargah

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a plea seeking directions to restrain Prime Minister Narendra Modi from offering a ceremonial 'chadar' at the Ajmer Sharif Dargah, saying the issue is not justiciable.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi refused to entertain the plea, which also challenged the extension of state-sponsored ceremonial honour and symbolic recognition to Islamic scholar Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti and to the Ajmer Dargah by the Union government and its instrumentalities.

Advocate Barun Sinha, appearing for petitioner Jitender Singh and others, submitted that the practice of the prime minister offering a 'chadar' at the Ajmer Dargah of Moinuddin Chishti, initiated by Jawaharlal Nehru in 1947, has continued since without any legal or constitutional basis.

CJI Kant told Sinha, "This court would not make any comment, as the issue is not justiciable."

Sinha said that a civil suit is pending in trial court on claim that the dargah was built over the ruins of a Shiva temple.

The top court clarified that the dismissal of the writ petition will not have any bearing on the pending civil suit. "You go and seek appropriate relief in the civil suit," CJI Kant said.

The petitioners Jitender Singh and Vishnu Gupta, , said they are aggrieved by the "continued practice of state-sponsored ceremonial honour extended to Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti by various instrumentalities" of the Centre.

2 injured in Manipur blasts

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Two persons were injured in suspected IED explosions in Manipur's Bishnupur district on Monday.

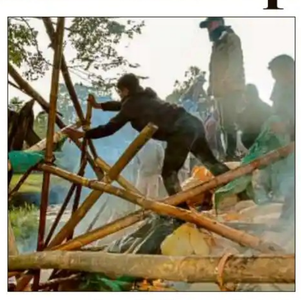
The first blast took place in an abandoned house at around 5.40 am near Saiton village, in which two people were injured by splinters. Another explosion took place sometime later.

The location of the explosions is situated in the peripheral areas of Bishnupur and the Kuki-dominated Churachandpur district.

The injured persons were identified as Nongthombam Indubala Devi (37) and Soibam Sanatomba (51).

Police said an investigation is underway.

There is a large presence of central forces in the area where the blasts took place, as it is situated along the boundary of the Bishnupur-Churachandpur district.



Irate locals dismantle bunkers of security forces in Manipur's Bishnupur district on Monday. PTI

As the explosions triggered fresh tension in the area, organisations representing both Meiteis and the Kukis questioned the role of the forces in maintaining peace.

Kuki-Zo Council (KZC), an apex body of Kuki groups engaged in talks with the government, condemned the attack and urged the authorities and the security forces to maintain peace.

Calling the attacks 'deeply disturbing and irresponsible, KZC said, "The violence took place in the buffer zone created by the security forces to prevent confrontations. The sanctity of the buffer zone must be respected by all."

Co-ordination Committee on Manipur Unity (COCOMI), an apex body of several organisations, mainly those in the Valley, demaned an investigation into the incident. "COCOMI holds the state administration and the security apparatus squarely responsible for their failure to discharge their constitutional duty to protect civilian lives," it said.

Meanwhile, several organisations in the Valley called a 'shutdown' to register their protest against the fresh violence.

Kerala ruling front leader disqualified as MLA after criminal conviction

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM DHNS: Kerala's ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF)'s leader and ex-minister Antony Raju has been disqualified as an MLA after being convicted in a criminal case on Saturday.

The Kerala legislative secretary ordered the disqualification on Monday as per provisions of the Representation of Peoples Act and the relevant Supreme Court decisions. The move will be in effect from January 3, the day of the judgment.

Raju was the lone MLA from regional outfit, the Janadhipathya Kerala Congress. He was representing the Thiruvananthapuram constituency and also served as transport minister in the Pinarayi Vijayan government from 2021 to 2023.

Raju was sentenced by the Nedumangad judicial first class magistrate court to three years in prison for tampering with evidence in a drug-smuggling case involving an Australian national in the 1990s.

Raju, a lawyer by profession, altered the undergarment, in which the drug was hidden, with the help of a court employee, who was convicted alongside the politician.

The Australian national was acquitted as the undergarment, which was a key piece of evidence, did not fit him.

A subsequent police probe exposed evidence-tampering. But the probe extended for years allegedly due to undue influences on the police.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

I'M FEELING A LITTLE OLD TODAY
HOW SO, HONEY?
MY KNEES HURT, MY JOINTS ARE CREAKY, AND MY BACK IS KILLING ME!
COULD IT BE BECAUSE ALL YOU'VE DONE IS SIT AND BINGE FOOTBALL ALL DAY?
WHY DO THE THINGS THAT MAKE YOU FEEL YOUNG AT HEART HAVE TO MAKE YOUR BODY FEEL SO OLD?!

Hagar The Horrible

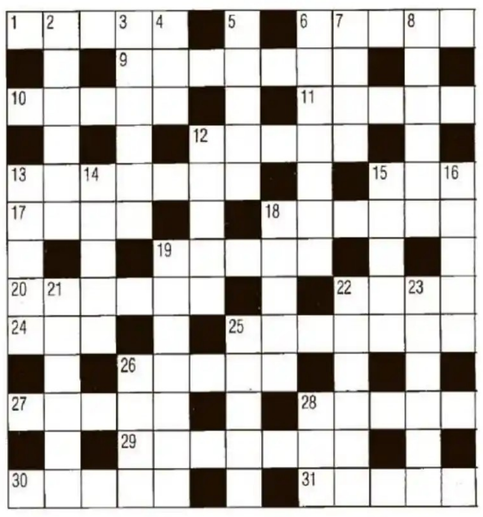
SIRE, HAGAR THE HORRIBLE WAS INJURED AND CAPTURED IN TODAY'S BATTLE!
TELL THE ROYAL DOCTORS TO DO ALL THEY CAN!
THEY DID, BUT HE RECOVERED!

Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12325



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 A corny little collection (5)
6 A knotty little snag (5)
9 Shifted, and not for the first time? (7)
10 Find there's not much sign (5)
11 Goes in the car for the bread (5)
12 She's soft on an aristocrat (5)
13 Willingly again to face the daily grind (7)
15 Can it also fly backwards? (3)
17 Piece of land in Paisley (4)
18 Burn up the track (6)
19 Shaped like a pepper pot, it contains beer (5)
20 Deceived and got rid of by the house (6)
22 Sound of the kookaburra? (4)
24 Instant sunburn! (3)
25 Deserved to finish the summer on a fancy diet (7)
26 Killed with scattered nails (5)
27 Quantity of fluid, possibly paint (5)
28 Such friends as one is thick with (5)
29 Where to race or maybe train for enjoyable ends (7)
30 See detriment in personal appeal (5)
31 Body in a box? (5)

DOWN
2 Are white ones visibly foaming? (6)
3 Where the shops are entered by a rogue? (6)
4 The cost of reduced life expectancy (3)
5 This is so sweet, darling! (5)
6 Poet or yokel about to make a mistake (7)
7 Figure one gets half a dollar (4)
8 One side of Glasgow (6)
12 Ask sincerely and quietly for a bit of help (5)
13 Dexterous punch? (5)
14 A name in financial, banking affairs (5)
15 A brown one is no rainbow! (5)
16 A part for actress Thora (5)
18 The number of dials in London (5)
19 Rant about the medical possibility (7)
21 Being clownish means nothing to a shark, say (6)
22 Bert's upset about it being cruel (6)
23 Once more go and reciprocate (6)
25 Walter, a Yankee with something handy for baseball (5)
26 Person famous in most areas (4)
28 Fix some mousetraps (3)

ACROSS
1 Explosion (5)
6 Untrue (5)
9 Domestic fowls (7)
10 Viper (5)
11 Weird (5)
12 Multiplied by (5)
13 To lower (3,4)
15 Petty lie (3)
17 Cupid (4)
18 Colombian capital (6)
19 Long-handled brush (5)
20 Descend by rope (6)
22 Money reserve (4)
24 Auction item (3)
25 Confuses (7)
26 Girl's name (5)
27 Ague (5)
28 Sucrose (5)
29 Farmer's vehicle (7)
30 Sheriff's men (5)
31 At no time (5)

DOWN
2 Stocking run (6)
3 Drives too fast (6)
4 High hill (3)
5 Unadorned (5)
6 Liberty (7)
7 Yes votes (4)
8 Mettle (6)
12 Coil (5)
13 Lawful (5)
14 Browned bread (5)
15 Concentrate (5)
16 Groups (5)
18 Golf term (5)
19 Odd or very strange (7)
21 Spanish dance (6)
22 Time to come (6)
23 Nullify (6)
25 Dark colour (5)
26 Hardens (4)
28 Male offspring (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12324

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 3, Smuts 8, Hero-D 10, R-ally 11, Fun 12, F-rail 13, Utterly 15, Parts 18, Guy 19, Eldest 21, Manacle 22, Hail 23, He-ad. 24, Satchel 26, C-rusty 29, Tea 31, Has-ty 32, Tendril 34, A-loud 35, War 36, Piste 37, Pa-NS-y 38, Essay.
DOWN: 1, He-fty 2, Donegal 4, Mary 5, Triple 6, Sa-lad 7, Flats 9, Rut 12, Fly-a-way 14, Run 16, Rev.-el 17, Study 19, Elected 20, Which 21, Min-U-s 23, Head-way 24, Styles 25, Hen 27, R-apid 28, State 30, First 32, Tuna 33, Ran.

EASY
ACROSS: 3, Dinar 8, Timid 10, Buyer 11, Lit 12, Loyal 13, Hexagon 15, Cells 18, Dog 19, Tureen 21, Tedious 22, Oval 23, Gene 24, Lateral 26, Enamel 29, Fin 31, Moses 32, Cudgels 34, Tidal 35, Wad 36, Cairo 37, Harem 38, Onset.
DOWN: 1, Piles 2, Citadel 4, Iron 5, Abacus 6, Ruler 7, Belle 9, Mix 12, Logical 14, God 16, Level 17, Sneer 19, Tuneful 20, Totem 21, Tapas 23, Gangway 24, Lesion 25, Rid 27, Nomad 28, Metro 30, Elder 32, Cake 33, Ear.

◆SU-DO-KU-6796◆

	1	3			4	2		5
					2	4		
4					7			
	8			5			7	6
		5	7		3	9		
9				1			2	
			3					8
		4	8					
8		1	2			6	3	

medium

SOLUTION TO 6795

3	7	2	8	9	1	5	6	4
4	8	1	5	3	6	7	9	2
5	6	9	7	2	4	3	8	1
2	4	8	1	6	5	9	7	3
6	9	3	2	4	7	1	5	8
7	1	5	3	8	9	4	2	6
9	5	4	6	1	8	2	3	7
8	2	7	4	5	3	6	1	9
1	3	6	9	7	2	8	4	5

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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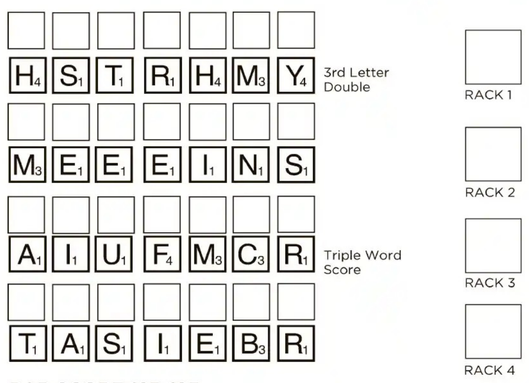
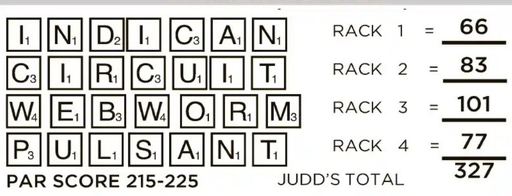

H4 S1 T1 R1 H4 M3 Y4
3rd Letter Double
M3 E1 E1 E1 I1 N1 S1
A1 I1 U1 F4 M3 C3 R1
Triple Word Score
T1 A1 S1 I1 E1 B3 R1
RACK 1
RACK 2
RACK 3
RACK 4

PAR SCORE 185-195
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



RACK 1 = 66
RACK 2 = 83
RACK 3 = 101
RACK 4 = 77
JUDD'S TOTAL 327
PAR SCORE 215-225

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WNEIT

UINNO

GYROGG

RVEDIT

That's a good problem. We might be able to buy the land next door.
I don't think we have enough acreage to handle all the orders we have.
THEY THOUGHT 10 ACRES WOULD BE BIG ENOUGH FOR THEIR PLANT NURSERY, BUT THEY WERE ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SALAD LIMBO MYSELF GROCER
Answer: When he put on his grandfather's vintage soft felt hat, he looked — "FEDORABLE"

HITORI-3250

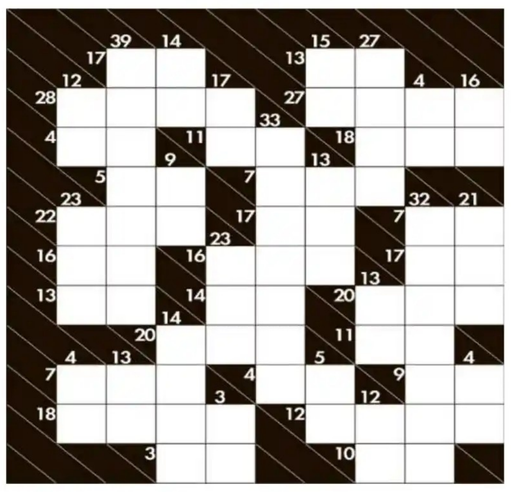
8	4	6	2	3	8	8	2
8	2	7	4	8	5	1	3
6	2	3	1	8	7	4	7
8	6	8	8	2	1	2	3
1	8	5	7	6	8	3	8
7	8	2	3	8	6	6	5
2	3	2	6	5	4	8	1
2	7	1	8	2	8	5	6

SOLUTION TO 3249

■	4	■	5	8	■	7	■
6	7	4	■	2	5	8	1
8	6	■	7	■	1	4	■
3	5	2	8	4	6	■	7
■	3	1	■	6	■	5	8
1	■	8	3	5	2	6	■
2	8	6	4	■	3	■	5
4	■	5	■	1	7	3	6

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

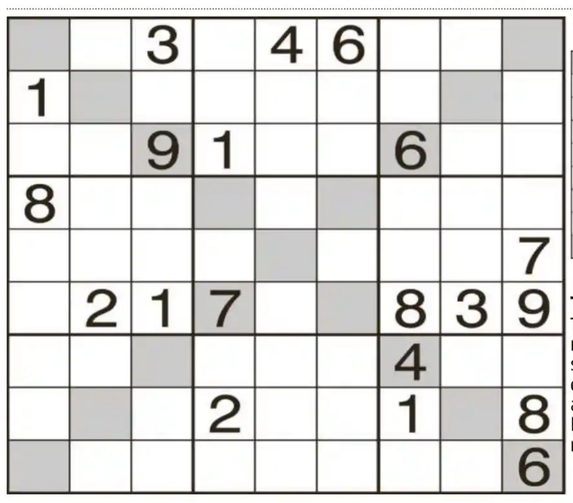
KAKURO- 3250



SOLUTION TO 3249

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3788



SOLUTION TO 3787

3	2	9	1	8	6	5	7	4
8	1	7	5	4	2	6	9	3
4	6	5	9	7	3	1	2	8
2	8	4	6	1	5	7	3	9
1	9	3	7	2	4	8	5	6
7	5	6	3	9	8	4	1	2
5	4	8	2	3	7	9	6	1
9	7	2	8	6	1	3	4	5
6	3	1	4	5	9	2	8	7

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Maduro pleads not guilty as drug trafficking case begins in US court

Deposed Venezuela president to stay in New York jail; next hearing on March 17

NEW YORK, REUTERS

A defiant Nicolas Maduro declared himself the "president of my country" as he protested his capture and pleaded not guilty on Monday to federal drug trafficking charges that the Trump administration used to justify removing him from power.

"I was captured," Maduro said in Spanish, as translated by a courtroom reporter, before being cut off by the judge. Asked later for his plea, he said: "I'm innocent. I am not guilty. I am a decent man, the president of my country."

The courtroom appearance — Maduro's first since he and his wife were seized from their home in a dramatic, middle-of-the-night military operation — kick-started the US government's most consequential prosecution of a foreign head of state in decades.

The criminal case in Manhattan is unfolding against the diplomatic backdrop of an audacious, US-engineered regime change that President Donald Trump has said would enable his administration to "run" the South American country.

Captured Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro is escorted near the Daniel Patrick Manhattan United States Courthouse in New York City on Monday. REUTERS

Maduro, wearing a blue jail uniform, was led into court with his co-defendant wife just before noon for the brief but required legal proceeding.

Both wore headsets to hear the English-language proceedings translated into Spanish.

The couple were transported to the Manhattan courthouse under armed guard early Monday from a Brooklyn jail, where they have been detained since arriving in the US on Saturday. They will remain in a New York jail, with their next court hearing scheduled for March 17.

The trip was swift. A motorcade carrying Maduro left the jail around 7.15 am and travelled to a nearby athletic field, where he slowly boarded a waiting helicopter. The aircraft flew across New York harbour and landed at a Manhattan heliport, where a limping Maduro was transferred into an armoured vehicle.

Minutes later, the law enforcement convoy entered a garage at the courthouse complex, just around the corner from the one where Trump was convicted in 2024 of falsifying business records.

Across the street, police separated a small but growing group of protesters from about a dozen pro-intervention demonstrators, including one man who pulled a Venezuelan flag away from those opposing the US action. As a criminal defendant in the US legal system, Maduro will have the same rights as any other accused person, including the right to a trial by a jury of New Yorkers. However, his case is nearly — though not entirely — unique.

Maduro's lawyers are expected to challenge the legality of his arrest, arguing that he is immune from prosecution as a sovereign head of state.

Venezuela's interim president, Delcy Rodriguez, has demanded that the US return Maduro.

POWER STRUGGLE

- Venezuela's new parliament opened on Monday with lawmakers chanting "Let's go Nico!" as they forcibly denounced the recent capture of Nicolas Maduro by US forces
- A lawmaker son of deposed Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro on Monday expressed his unconditional support for interim president Delcy Rodriguez, who had served as his father's deputy
- Russia and China called on the US to immediately release Maduro at the United Nations Security Council meeting

Allies, adversaries use UN meeting to blast US

UNITED NATIONS, AP/PTI: The UN Security Council held an emergency meeting Monday after an audacious US military operation in Venezuela over the weekend to capture leader Nicolas Maduro, with the United Nations' top official warning that America may have violated international law.

Both allies and adversaries blasted the Trump's intervention and him signalling the possibility of expanding military action to countries like Colombia and Mexico over drug trafficking accusations. In a statement, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he is "deeply concerned that rules of international law have not been respected with regard to the 3 January military action."

Colombian Ambassador Leonor Zalabata said the raid was reminiscent of "the worst interference in our area in the past."

Russia's ambassador to the UN went further. Vasily Nebenzya called the US intervention in Venezuela and capture of Maduro is "a turn back to the era of lawlessness" by America.

"We cannot allow the United States to proclaim itself as some kind of a supreme judge."

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Kiyomura Co's President Kiyoshi Kimura, who runs a chain of sushi restaurants Sushi Zanmai, poses with a 243-kg bluefin tuna auctioned for a record 510 million yen ($3.24 million), at his restaurant in Tokyo on Monday. REUTERS

Court holds 10 people guilty of cyberbullying France's first lady

A Paris court on Monday found 10 people guilty of cyberbullying France's first lady Brigitte Macron, AP/PTI reports from Paris.

The court convicted all defendants to sentences, ranging from a cyberbullying awareness training to 8-month suspended prison sentences. The court pointed to "particularly degrading, insulting, and malicious" comments referring to false claims regarding alleged trans identity and alleged pedo criminality targeting Brigitte Macron. The defendants, eight men and two women aged 41 to 65, are accused of posting "numerous malicious comments" falsely claiming that President Emmanuel Macron's wife was born a man and linking the 24-year age gap with paedophilia. Some of the posts were viewed tens of thousands of times. Brigitte Macron did not attend the two-day trial in October. Speaking on TF1 national television Sunday, she said she launched legal proceedings to "set an example" in the fight against harassment. Her daughter, Tiphaine Auziere, testified about what she described as the "deterioration" of her mother's life since the online harassment intensified.

UK raises Grok photo concerns

The United Kingdom's media watchdog Ofcom said Monday it had contacted Elon Musk's social network X over complaints that its AI tool Grok is generating fake sexually explicit images of children, AFP reports from London.

"Tackling illegal online harm and protecting children remain urgent priorities for Ofcom," a watchdog spokesperson said in a statement.

"We are aware of serious concerns raised about a feature on Grok on X that produces undressed images of people and sexualised images of children." The spokesperson said Ofcom had made "urgent contact with X and xAI to understand what steps they have taken to comply with their legal duties to protect users in the UK".

Hindu man shot dead in B'desh, fifth in 3 weeks

The victim was a newspaper editor

DHAKA, PTI

A Hindu businessman who was also the acting editor of a newspaper was fatally shot in the head by unidentified assailants on Monday in Jessore district in southern Bangladesh, marking the fifth reported violent incident against members of the Hindu community in recent weeks, officials said.

"We have received information that one Rana Pratap Bairagi was shot dead in the Keshabpur area of Jessore," Bangladesh Puja Celebration Committee president Bashudeb Dhar said.

The 38-year-old was a resident of Arua village in Keshabpur upazila of Jessore, located in Khulna Division, Bangla-language daily Prothom Alo reported.

The killing is the latest in a spate of violent incidents targeting minorities in the country, particularly members of the Hindu community. India has repeatedly expressed concern over attacks on minorities, especially Hindus, in Bangladesh.

Bairagi owned an ice-making factory at Kopaliya Bazar in Monirampur and was also the acting editor of a newspaper titled Dainik BD Khabar, published from Narail, according to Prothom Alo. The incident occurred at around 5:45 pm on Monday at Kopaliya Bazar, bdnews24 reported, quoting Additional Superintendent of Police Abul Basar.

Citing local residents and police, Prothom Alo said three assailants riding a motorcycle called Bairagi out of his ice factory and led him to an alley in front of the Kapalia Clinic and Diagnostic Centre on the western side of the market.

The attackers then shot him in the head from close range before fleeing the scene. He died on the spot.

Monirampur Police Station officer-in-charge Md Rajiullah Khan said the motive behind the killing was not yet known.

Police said an investigation had been launched. According to law enforcement officials, Bairagi "appeared to be a victim of an internal feud" involving the banned Purbo Banglar Communist Party, describing him as an "active member" of the group.

Police also said there were four cases registered against the deceased at two police stations.

Trump's Greenland remarks draw global backlash

COPENHAGEN, AFP: President Donald Trump's call for Greenland to become part of the United States drew international condemnation on Monday, with the autonomous Danish territory's prime minister issuing a sharp rebuke, saying: "That's enough now."

Washington's military intervention in Venezuela has reignited concerns over Greenland, the mineral-rich Arctic territory that Trump has repeatedly said he wants to annex. "We need Greenland from the standpoint of national security, and Denmark is not going to be able to do it," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One late on Sunday.

The island has untapped rare earth minerals and could become a strategic hub as polar ice melts and new Arctic shipping routes emerge.

Greenland also lies on the shortest missile route between Russia and the US, and Washington already maintains a military base on the island.

"We'll worry about Greenland in about two months," Trump added. "Let's talk about Greenland in 20 days."

Greenland Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen took to social media to respond to the US leader. "That's enough now. No more pressure. No more insinuations. No more fantasies of annexation."

Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said over the weekend that the US should stop threatening its NATO ally, and on Monday several European countries and the EU moved quickly to support Copenhagen.

Trump has unsettled European leaders in recent days by ordering action against Caracas and overseeing the seizure of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, who is now being detained in New York.

China's foreign ministry responded on Monday, urging Washington to "stop using the so-called China threat as an excuse to seek personal gain".

India introduces e-business visa for Chinese nationals

BEIJING, PTI: India has introduced an e-Production Investment Business Visa called e-B-4 Visa that Chinese businessmen can apply for to travel to India for specific business activities.

A latest advisory on the Indian Embassy website here said the e-B-4 Visa, which was introduced on January 1, can be applied for online without visiting the embassy or agents.

The new visa is introduced in view of the growing demand for business visas to travel to India. It will be issued in about 45 to 50 days, with permission to stay in India for up to six months.

Applicants can submit an application for an e-B-4 Visa online on the portal https://indianvisaonline.gov.in under the tab'For e-Visa by Bureau of Immigration, apply along with mandatory supporting documents, it said.

Jimmy Kimmel accepts the Best Talk Show Award for "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" at the 31st Annual Critics Choice Awards in Santa Monica on Sunday. REUTERS

Putin's home was not hit: Trump

President Donald Trump said that US officials have determined that Ukraine did not target a residence belonging to Russian President Vladimir Putin in a drone attack last week, disputing Kremlin claims, AP/PTI reports from Aboard Air Force One.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov last week said Ukraine launched a wave of drones at Putin's state residence in the northwestern Novgorod region that the Russian defence systems were able to defeat. Lavrov also criticised Kyiv for launching the attack at a moment of intensive negotiations. The allegation came just a day after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had travelled to Florida for talks with Trump on the US 20-point plan.

China, South Korea to bolster ties as regional tensions rise

BEIJING, AP/PTI

China and South Korea's leaders pledged to boost trade and safeguard regional stability on Monday during a visit to Beijing by the South Korean president that was overshadowed by North Korea's recent ballistic missile tests.

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung met Chinese President Xi Jinping as part of his four-day trip to China — his first since taking office, in June.

As Xi hosted Lee at the imposing Great Hall of the People, the Chinese president stressed the two countries' "important responsibilities in maintaining regional peace and promoting global development," according to a readout of their meeting broadcast by state-run CCTV.

Chinese President Xi Jinping shakes hands with South Korean President Lee Jae Myung in Beijing on Monday. REUTERS

Lee spoke about opening "a new chapter in the development of Korea-China relations" during "changing times." "The two countries should make joint contributions to promote peace, which is the foundation for prosperity and growth," Lee said.

The visit comes as China wants to shore up regional support amid rising tensions with Japan. Beijing and South Korea's ties have fluctuated in recent years, with frictions over South Korea's hosting of US military troops and armaments.

China, Pakistan oppose unilateral actions in South Asia

BEIJING, PTI: All-weather allies China and Pakistan on Monday reiterated their opposition to any unilateral actions in South Asia as they concluded their strategic dialogue with references to Kashmir and trilateral cooperation with Bangladesh.

In a joint statement at the end of the 7th strategic dialogue held between Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister Isaq Dar, Beijing backed Islamabad's demand that Afghanistan should eliminate terror outfits.

"The two sides emphasised the importance of a South Asian regional order underpinned by the UN Charter, international law, and the basic norms governing international relations, reiterated opposition to any unilateral actions and reaffirmed the significance of maintaining peace and stability in South Asia and the necessity of resolving all outstanding disputes through dialogue and consultation," it said.

"The Pakistani side briefed the Chinese side on its position on and latest developments of the situation in Jammu and Kashmir," a familiar line that figures in all China-Pakistan joint statement.

TACKLING OBESITY

UK bans junk food ads on TV, online

LONDON, PTI

A new ban on junk food advertising on television before 9 pm, and online at all times, came into force on Monday as part of the UK government's crackdown on rising childhood obesity rates.

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) said the ban on adverts for less healthy food and sugary drinks is expected to remove up to 7.2 billion calories from children's diets each year.

It is also expected to reduce the number of children living with obesity by 20,000 and deliver around 2 billion pounds in benefits for the state-funded National Health Service (NHS) over time.

"By restricting adverts for junk food before 9 pm and banning paid adverts online, we can remove excessive exposure to unhealthy foods, making the healthy choice the easy choice for parents and children," said Ashley Dalton, the UK's Minister for Health.

"We're moving the dial from having the NHS treat sickness to preventing it, so people can lead healthier lives and it can be there for us when we need it," she said. The DHSC said evidence shows advertising influences what and when children eat, shaping preferences from a young age and increasing the risk of obesity and related illnesses.

According to official statistics, 22.1 per cent of children in England are either overweight or obese at the start of primary school, rising to 35.8 per cent by the time they leave. Tooth decay is also the leading cause of hospital admissions for young children, typically aged five to nine, in the UK.

"These new restrictions will help reduce children's exposure to the most problematic adverts and mark real progress towards a healthier food environment," said Katharine Jenner, executive director of the UK's Obesity Health Alliance.

"For the government to achieve its ambition of raising the healthiest generation ever, this is an important policy as part of a broader approach to preventing obesity-related ill health. Continuing to strengthen the rules over time will help ensure these protections remain effective," she added.

Israel strikes Hezbollah, Hamas targets in Lebanon

BEIRUT, AP/PTI: Israel's air force struck areas in southern and eastern Lebanon on Monday, saying they are home to infrastructure for the militant groups Hezbollah and Hamas.

The strikes came a few days before Lebanon's army commander is scheduled to brief the government on its mission of disarming Hezbollah in areas along the border with Israel. The strikes took place nearly two hours after Israel's military Arabic language spokesman Avichay Adraee posted warnings on X that the military would strike targets for Hezbollah and the Palestinian Hamas groups in two villages in the eastern Bekaa Valley and two others in southern Lebanon.

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency said a home struck in the village of Manara in the Bekaa Valley belonged to Sharhabil al-Sayed, a Hamas military commander who was killed in an Israeli drone strike in May 2024.

UK tightens migration rules

Mobile phones and hidden SIM cards can be seized from migrants arriving illegally in the UK on small boats across the English Channel under new powers enforced from Monday, PTI reports from London.

Law enforcement agencies can now seize electronic devices like mobile phones and SIM cards from illegal migrants without needing to arrest them. This is intended to help them gather intelligence to track down and arrest people smugglers. The UK Home Office said the "game-changing" new criminal offences will help authorities intercept organised criminals faster and enable police to arrest people smugglers fuelling illegal migration. "We promised to restore order and control to our borders which means taking on the people smuggling networks behind this deadly trade," said Alex Norris, UK's minister for border security and asylum.

A woman takes a selfie on the snow-blanketed Champs-de-Mars near the Eiffel Tower in Paris on Monday. AFP

Air India kicks off search to replace CEO amid losses

Supply chain woes impact AI's financial performance

BLOOMBERG

The Tata Group has started scouting for a new Chief Executive Officer for Air India as it grows impatient with the carrier's slow recovery after a deadly crash that killed over 241 passengers and crew last year, people familiar with the matter said.

Current CEO Campbell Wilson, whose contract expires in mid-2027 will not be offered an extension, the people said, asking for anonymity to discuss private decisions. Tata Chairman N Chandrasekaran has had initial discussions with potential CEO candidates who have experience running large airlines, including those with sizable domestic operations, one of the people said.

Tata Group's discussions to replace the top leadership at Air India was reported by a local newspaper earlier in the day.

Air India is unlikely to meet a target date of March 31 to break even operationally, a key factor in Wilson's ouster, the people said. The carrier's turnaround plan was dealt a blow when a Boeing 787 Dreamliner crashed in Ahmedabad in June, the cause of which is still not definitively known.

Representatives for Air India and Tata Group did not immediately respond to an email seeking comments. Campbell Wilson also did not respond to an emailed query.

Announcement of a new CEO will likely come after the crash report on the tragedy is released, sometime by June. The agencies typically have a year after the incident to close their findings.

• Current Air India CEO Campbell Wilson's contract expires in mid-2027
BOARDROOM MOVES
• Tata Chairman N Chandrasekaran has had initial discussions with potential CEO candidates
• A new CEO may be named after the crash report on the AI 171 tragedy is released, sometime by June 2026
AIR INDIA

There's instability at both of India's top airlines right now, as larger rival IndiGo awaits the regulatory fallout after mass cancellation of its flights last month — triggered by pilot shortages and software glitches — stranded half a million passengers.

The troubles at the two carriers, which together account for nearly nine out of 10 domestic seats in the world's third-largest domestic aviation market, is raising concern that India's infrastructure and regulatory apparatus is not ready for rapid growth in air travel.

External challenges — like supply chain issues that are affecting aircraft deliveries, and Pakistan's closure of airspace to Indian carriers that have meant longer flying routes — have also impacted Air India's financial performance. Current CEO Wilson, 53, joined Air India in July 2022 from Scoot Airlines after the Group's earlier choice for the job, former Turkish Airlines Chief Ilker Ayci, declined to take up the offer.

Wilson was given the targets of improving the on-board experience for fliers — better seats, in-flight entertainment and food service — plus re-position the airline for profitability and growth after the Tata Group bought it over from the government in 2022.

Air India is 25.1% owned by Singapore Airlines Ltd., which has seen its net income pulled down by the India carrier's woes. The Singaporean carrier is helping Air India transition aircraft maintenance services in-house as part of its restructuring plan, people familiar with the matter said in August.

The world's 500 richest people added a record $2.2 trillion to their collective fortunes in 2025, as booming markets in everything from equities to cryptocurrencies to precious metals sent the value of their holdings soaring, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. The gains, which brought their combined net worth to $11.9 trillion, were turbocharged by Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential election in late 2024.

SOURCE: BLOOMBERG BILLIONAIRES INDEX

Apax Partners invests over Rs 1,500 crore in iD Fresh Food

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru-based iD Fresh Food has secured a strategic investment from Funds advised by Apax Partners, the global private equity advisory firm. Although the company did not disclose the funds raised, agencies reported that Apax Partners has invested over Rs 1,500 crore in the company to acquire a significant minority stake.

The Apax Funds will acquire a minority stake from existing shareholders Premji Invest and TPG NewQuest, both of which will remain investors alongside the company's co-founder, PC Musthafa, and his cousins.

Founded in 2005 in Bengaluru, iD Fresh was created to make fresh, preservative-free, traditionally-made Indian food available at scale. It has expanded to more than 50 cities across India and the Gulf, employing nearly 2,400 people. Today, iD Fresh is the category leader in branded batter and Indian flatbreads, with an estimated 50-60% share in its core categories. Its portfolio includes idli/dosa batter, Indian flatbreads, accompaniments such as chutneys and sambar, and value-added dairy products.

"This partnership marks a defining moment in iD Fresh's journey. The Apax Funds' investment will allow us to accelerate growth, build capacity, broaden our product range, and scale into more cities and markets," Musthafa said.

Apax Partner and Head of India Harjot Dhaliwal said, "We will work closely with the management team and leverage our consumer packaged goods expertise to accelerate growth, including expanding distribution into new cities and channels, strengthening the brand through marketing and category-building, driving innovation in adjacent product categories, and using technology and analytics to optimise the company's fresh, daily-delivered supply chain."

In the coming fiscal, iD Fresh expects to build on its momentum through deeper penetration across domestic and international markets, new product innovations and accelerated channel expansion.

Sakthi to deliver India's 1st pvt trainer aircraft this year

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
TIRUPPUR, DHNS

Homegrown Sakthi Aircraft Industry Private Limited (SAIPL) will start the delivery of single-engine four-seater trainer aircraft by mid-2026, becoming the first Indian private player to venture into this sector.

SAIPL, a part of the diversified Sakthi Group of Companies, is investing Rs 750 crore to build a massive assembly facility on the outskirts of Tiruppur.

The company has entered into an agreement with Austria's Diamond Aircraft Industries to produce DA-40 NG single-engine, four-seater trainers, a development that is expected to reduce India's dependence on foreign countries for trainer aircraft.

The Coimbatore-based Sakthi Group ventured into the sector amid a huge demand for pilots in the country, with the Indian airline industry growing at a rapid pace.

GOVINDH RAJKUMAR
Director, SAIPL

"Production will start by the end of January, and we will kick-off the CAR 21 certification from DGCA. We expect the certification to be completed by March and plan to deliver aircraft to customers from mid-2026.

"Production will start by the end of January, and we will kick-off the CAR 21 certification from DGCA. We expect the certification to be completed by March and plan to deliver aircraft to customers from mid-2026," SAIPL Director Govindh Rajkumar told *DH*.

The CAR 21 certification process involves the DGCA observing and assessing full-scale production of the aircraft.

Rajkumar said the company plans to assemble one aircraft a week, scaling to four per week at full capacity and 100 aircraft every year. The capacity will be enhanced further, if needed, he added.

The aircraft will be assembled at an 80,000 sq feet manufacturing facility inside an existing campus owned by the company and the location falls on the Coimbatore Defence Corridor.

Rajkumar said 90% of the production will serve India's domestic market, while the remaining 10% is likely to cater to neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

"The Flying Training Organisations in India are primarily our main target customers. We are in talks with 15-20 of the 35 FTOs in the country. Of those we are in talks with, we have discussed term sheets with four of them and aim to close the deal in a month's time," Rajkumar added.

Rupee ends 10 paise lower at 90.30 against US dollar

MUMBAI, PTI: The Indian rupee stayed weak for the fourth straight session and closed 10 paise lower at 90.30 against the US dollar on Monday, as a surge in geopolitical uncertainty has bolstered the greenback's appeal.

Forex traders said renewed geopolitical uncertainties after the US military intervention in Venezuela fuelled dollar demand worldwide, while a sluggish domestic stock market, triggered by an exodus of foreign capital dented investor sentiments further.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened at 90.21 and touched the intra-day low of 90.50 during the session before ending at 90.30 against the greenback.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.27% higher at 98.68.

Sensex declined 322.39 points or 0.38% to close at 85,439.62, while the Nifty fell 78.25 points or 0.30% to 26,250.30.

HIGH ON CHARGE

Simple Energy introduces e-scooter with 400-km range

HRITHIK KIRAN BAGADE
BENGALURU, DHNS

Pushing the envelope on e-scooter range, Bengaluru-headquartered Simple Energy on Monday unveiled the 'Simple Ultra', which claims the longest range for any electric scooter in India. With an IDC range of 400 km, it is powered by a 6.5-kWh battery — the largest ever fitted on an e-scooter in the country — and delivers a top speed of 115 kmph, accelerating 0-40 kmph in 2.77 seconds. Market rollout details are, however, yet to be announced.

"The Simple Ultra is built precisely for that customer who demands extreme range and performance without compromise. Backed by over four years of in-house R&D, it delivers an industry-first 400 km IDC range, setting a new benchmark for electric two-wheelers in India," said Simple Energy Founder and CEO Suhas Rajkumar.

Alongside the Ultra, the company launched three other scooters. The Simple OneS Gen 2 offers an IDC range of 190 km and is priced at Rs 1,49,999. The Simple One Gen 2 now comes in two battery variants — a 4.5-kWh version with a 236-km IDC range priced from Rs 1,69,999, and a 5-kWh variant with a 265-km range priced from Rs 1,77,999 (all prices ex-showroom Bengaluru). These models are now available across 61+ showrooms in over 35 cities, including Bengaluru, Goa, Pune, Vijayawada, Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam, Kochi, Jaipur, and Mangaluru.

"Our focus has been to give value beyond range and performance. We have tried to work on the single-biggest problem — range anxiety — apart from reliability. A scooter's value must be intact even 3-5 years later, especially with battery replacement costs," Simple Electric Co-founder Shreshth Mishra told *DH*.

Built on the company's in-house engineering architecture, the portfolio features enhanced durability and is backed by an 8-year motor warranty, a 3-year/30,000-km vehicle warranty, and a 3-year/20,000-km charger warranty. All scooters support home charging via a 750W portable charger, while public fast-charging enables 0-80% charge in 2 hours 15 minutes, depending on the variant.

Simple Energy CEO Suhas Rajkumar with the Simple Ultra in Bengaluru on Monday.

Mishra said the company has focused heavily on battery safety and robustness, testing packs across -5 degrees Celsius to +50 degrees Celsius and harsh road conditions. "We have implemented multi-layer safety protocols. If a problem occurs, the customer must be notified instantaneously," he said, adding that the firm is also working on fast-charging technology.

The scooters use lithium-ion NCA chemistry cells sourced externally, with plans to localise in the long run.

Simple Energy is localising most components, except semiconductors, magnets, and cells, and is expanding towards 150 dealerships and 200 service centres by March. The company, which is preparing for an IPO in Q2-Q3 FY27 to raise $350 million, aims for EBITDA positivity before FY26, and has so far raised $51 million from investors and HNIs.

The company has sold 9,000 units a month since inception, and is targeting 2,000 monthly volume this year, with the new portfolio.

Govt may retain inflation target for RBI

BLOOMBERG: India is likely to retain the existing inflation target for the central bank, with the setup seen as effective in managing prices, according to people familiar with the matter.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) currently aims to keep inflation anchored around 4%, the mid-point of a 2%-6% range mandated by the government. The target for the central bank is set every five years and is due in March.

The government is unlikely to change the target, finance ministry officials in New Delhi said, asking not to be identified as the discussions are still private. The Ministry of Finance did not immediately respond to request for comment.

In place since 2016, the inflation targeting framework has helped contain price volatility, including during supply shocks triggered by geopolitical events. India's inflation rate picked up in November from a record low in the previous month but stayed well below the central bank's 4% target.

The government has also sought the central bank's feedback, which has favoured maintaining the status quo following internal deliberations and consultations with stakeholders, the people said.

The target guides the central bank's interest-rate decisions, helping keep price pressures within the band and anchored around the mid-point over the medium term.

Government of Karnataka
BIDAR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, BIDAR.
(Autonomous Institution of Govt. of Karnataka)
Affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences,
Karnataka, Bangalore & Recognized by Govt. of India, New Delhi
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& e-mail : directorbrimsbidar2007@gmail.com

No :Brims/Tender/News Paper/CR-/2025-26 Date : 03-01-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Bidar Institute of Medical Sciences, Bidar Invites e-tender from eligible bidders for the SUPPLY OF HNS, DIET, CHENICAL & REAGENTS, DISPOSABLES ITEMSTO BRIMS BIDAR iterestedbidder can view, download and apply through ktpp portal www.kppp.karnataka.gov only for more information about can be contact/view at our website **www.bimsbidar.karnataka.gov.in** Last date for submission of tender through ktpp portal is **20-01-2026** at the specified in e-tender.
1) Tender Indent No: **DME/2025-26/IND1973,** Name of the Tender: TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF HNS, PRINTING & STATIONERY ITEMS FOR THE YEAR 2025-26, E.M.D : 2,50,000.00,
2) Tender Indent No: **DME/2025-26/IND1972,** Name of the Tender: TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF DIET ITEMS FOR THE YEAR 2025-26, E.M.D : 2,50,000.00,
3) Tender Indent No: **DME/2025-26/IND1976,** Name of the Tender: TENDER FOR SUPPLY OFCHEMICAL & REAGENTS FOR THE YEAR 2025-26, E.M.D : 2,50,000.00,
4) Tender Indent No: **DME/2025-26/IND1978,** TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF SURGICAL DISPOSABLES FOR THE YEAR 2025-26, E.M.D : 2,50,000.00
Note : For further information about tender please contact Director Brims Bidar office, and if any further changes in tender will be published in KPPP website only.

Sd/- DIRECTOR
DIPR/Bidar/288/KSMC&A/2025-26 **Bidar Institute Of Medical Sciences, Bidar.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are undertaking a title investigation on the immovable properties more fully described in the '**Schedule**' hereto and hereinafter referred to as '**Schedule Property**'. The said title due diligence is being conducted for and on behalf of our Client who is desirous of entering into certain transaction in relation to the Schedule Property. Mr. Vivek M. Hinduja (son of Mr. Madanlal J. Hinduja), Mr. Ashwin R. Hinduja (son of Mr. Rajendra J. Hinduja) and Mr. Gaurav D. Hinduja (son of Mr. Dinesh J. Hinduja) ('**Owners**') have represented to our Client that they own the Schedule Property and have unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person/s other than the Owners, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned, their claim/s, if any, over the Schedule Property or submit their objections, if any, to the aforementioned transaction. The said claim/s or objections must be in writing, together with documentary proof to support such claim/s or objections and must be delivered to us at the address given below within a period of 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of this Notice. If no such claim/s or objections are received, it shall be deemed that no one else other than the Owners has/have any right, title, interest or claim whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property and our Client would be at liberty to proceed with the said transaction in connection with the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE
(Description of the Schedule Property)

All that piece and parcel of the following immovable properties measuring 04 Acres comprised in lands bearing Survey Nos. 135 and 136, situated at Bhairati Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, more fully described in the table below:

Sl No.	Survey Nos.	Extent			Boundaries			
		Acres	Guntas	Kharab	East by	West by	North by	South by
1.	135	02	00	00	Road	Survey No. 28	Survey No. 136	Survey No. 134
2.	136	02	00	00	Road	Survey No. 28	Road	Survey No. 135

Sd/-
Mr. Srinivas B.R., Partner
DSK Legal, Prestige Loka, No. 201, 2nd Floor, No. 7/1 & 7/7,
Brunton Road, Bengaluru – 560025. Tel: 080-69548770

Date:06 .01.2026
Place: Bengaluru

Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Kolar Division, Kolar-563101
e-mail: eepwdkolar07@gmail.com
website: www.kpwd.gov.in
e-portal: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Phone No. 08152-222022

e-tender Notification – K.W.3&4
Short Term Re-Tender notification No: 28/ 2025-26 Dt. 03.01.2026.

Tender is invited through e-Procurement for works in the limits of Kolar , KGF and Malur Taluk, Kolar District Public Works Department from the PWD Registered Contractors under **H/A: 5054-MDR Improvements and 4059-Court Building** Estimate cost : Min 100.00 Lakhs & Max: 550.00 Lakhs EMD Amount: mentioned in KPP Portal, Period for completion of work: 6 months.

Contractors may download the tender documents KW- 3&4 from Karnataka State Procurement portal **(viz., htpp:// kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Filled in tenders shall be uploaded **on or before 16.00 hours. on 19.01.2026** through Karnataka State Procurement portal. Tenders received will be opened **after 16.30 hours on 20.01.2026 in KPP portal.** Further details regarding the works and also for details about this tender notification please contact KPP portal and also you may contact this office during working hours.

Note: Any changes in this Notification will be published in KPP portal only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Kolar
DIPR/KOLAR/RO:431/KSMCA/2025-26

Jobs in demand: What to expect in 2026

VIJAY PRAKASH SRIVASTAVA

The New Year brings hope, and this hope matters a lot for job seekers. In this age of automation and cost-cutting, jobs are dwindling, and competition for decent roles will be tougher.

Beyond typical administrative and similar roles, the job market is shifting toward skills-first hiring, where traditional degrees carry less weight. However, it shouldn't be construed that degrees are going to lose value. A degree has to be supported by skills.

India's Information Technology (IT) services market is estimated at USD 283 billion and is projected to grow significantly in 2026. According to a report by research and consulting firm Gartner, overall IT spending in 2026 is projected to grow 10.6%, up from 8.7% in 2025.

Within IT, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been the dominant theme and will remain so. AI applications are becoming more sophisticated, and their scope of use is expanding. Demand for generic AI skills is already strong, but this year, more roles in niche AI domains will be created. These include the development of AI-optimised infrastructure (network

fabric, servers, compute capacity), AI-enabled CRM, and related capabilities. Indian start-ups are making good strides in AI. Many foreign AI firms have entered India and have been scouting for talent with higher incentives. Remote AI roles are also available. Focusing on inclusive and ethical AI will bring new opportunities for those who care.

The trend of firms steadily moving away from legacy systems to cloud-based platforms is now well-established. This year, we'll see significant investment in cloud infrastructure and technology. This is a potential area where more jobs will be created this year.

■ **GCCs and jobs:** When we discuss job opportunities in areas such as AI and cloud computing, we should mention Global Capacity Centres (GCCs), which are experiencing significant growth in India. Presently, about 1800 GCCs are operating in India. Bengaluru is the biggest GCC hub in India, commanding 30% share. GCCs comprise teams that run technology, data, product development, and other core business functions for multinational companies.

GCCs currently support 10.4 million jobs, directly and indirectly. Nearly one-third of GCC deals involve software platforms and high-tech. Others are engaged in automotives, healthcare, life sciences, manufacturing, retail, FMCG, banking, insurance and media and entertainment. GCCs added more than 4 lakh jobs in 2025. This number may only increase in 2026. Jobseekers with the requisite skills and ready to relocate to Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi NCR, Mumbai, and Pune may consider joining GCC bandwagon.

■ **Manufacturing and clean energy:** India's manufacturing environment is entering a new phase, with a focus on sustainable manufacturing. You'll be finding more electric vehicles on our roads these days. Demand for EVs is persistent, indicating an expansion of their production base and the need for battery and charging infrastructure engineers, R & D scientists, designers, and quality control professionals.

Capacity expansion in clean energy will mark 2026. The imperative for clean, renewable, and green energy solutions will create new job opportunities in solar, wind, and hydrogen. Environmental scientists and engineers are sought by a range of firms, including power companies, chemical and vehicle manufacturers, and pollution control boards. Many government departments and public sector companies (NTPC, NHAI, NABARD are included among these) are looking for environmental experts - generalists as well as those specialised in carbon footprint analysis, ESG, recycling and sustainability.

Young students, based on their aptitude, may consider pursuing higher studies in environmental or climate science to secure future job opportunities in these fields.

■ **Finance-related jobs:** As the economy grows, the world of finance and investment also expands. The hiring spree in banking must be sustained to meet HR requirements. As banking has gone digital, this space will also require techies from various disciplines. Recent advertisements by the Reserve Bank of India and a few public sector banks are indicative of the trend. The Fintech revolution in our country has been with us for half a decade. Several existing Fintech companies are expanding their operations, and many new ones are likely to enter the market. Thus, this sector will create many more job opportunities.

Under the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025, 100% FDI is now permitted in India's insurance sector. So, under BFSI, Insurance will also have new manpower requirements. All sub-sectors within BFSI require risk management professionals. People from finance and information technology backgrounds are considered for risk management roles. At the senior level, we'll continue to see vacancies for Chief Risk Officers.

Data science and analytics will see significant demand for roles such as data architect, data engineer, machine learning expert, and others. Under Analytics, branches such as HR Analytics and Marketing Analytics are available.

■ **Healthcare:** The healthcare and Life Sciences sectors have benefited from the pandemic. Even otherwise, the industry is vibrant with new investments and demand from various quarters. Increased demand for doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, and mental health experts is imminent.

India needs more pilots and other aviation staff. How the primary requirement for pilots will be met remains unclear. Cabin crew jobs can be explored by young people with modest qualifications.

E-commerce, retail, and Supply Chain management have added value to the economy by creating many jobs. These sectors have managerial, technical and non-technical roles. We expect higher demand for gig workers. Additionally, more people will be needed for digital and social media marketing.

Cybercrime is on the rise, and firms are becoming more aware of cyber risks. Junior, middle, and senior-level cybersecurity professionals will see increased demand. Flexible staffing models, which don't necessarily mean work-from-home models, are already in vogue. In 2026, adoption of these will increase.

NIRF rankings: Need for scrutiny

Data verification for the National Institutional Ranking Framework must be made mandatory, transparent, and open to public audit, writes

P John J Kennedy

The latest National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) results were, as always, launched with fanfare, live telecasts, and the familiar parade of IISc Bengaluru and a few IITs at the top. However, for all the rhetoric of transparency and rigour, the rankings have exposed a deeply flawed system riddled with inequities. Only a small metropolitan elite is consistently spotlighted, while hundreds of regional institutions remain invisible.

The NIRF claims to measure academic excellence, but in practice, its formula rewards reputation, networks, and financial muscle more than genuine educational work. The Union Education Minister's repeated calls for objectivity and transparency acknowledge that the system lacks both.

The fundamental problem lies in the integrity of the data. The rankings rely entirely on information supplied by the institutions themselves: student numbers, faculty, publications, budgets, placements, and outreach. With little independent cross-verification, the process has become less of a survey and more of a competitive sport in data manipulation. Colleges embellish figures and get away with it because no meaningful third-party scrutiny exists.

The Madras High Court issued an interim stay on the 2025 rankings for precisely this reason: no transparent audit was in place. Meanwhile, private agencies now coach institutions on how to 'game' the system, reducing the exercise to clever number-dressing.

Nothing illustrates the malaise better than the farcical case of Banaras Hindu University's dental college in the NIRF 2025 rankings. The Faculty of Dental Sciences appeared twice, once under BHU at rank 15, and again independently at rank 18. Both entries were based on separate submissions, with matching data in some areas but discrepancies in others, particularly placement figures.

The real scandal, however, lay in the outcome: the two entries received vastly different scores, with more than 17 points' difference in 'perception' for what is essentially the same institution. That surveyors could "perceive" two versions of one college makes a mockery of credibility.

This was not just a clerical error but a damning indictment of NIRF's weak vetting procedures. Such lapses are not isolated. Institutions routinely complain that the submission process is confusing, with unclear guidelines about names, affiliations, or multiple campuses. Reorganisations or ambiguous categories often lead to mismatched scores or outright exclusions. State universities serving rural or first-generation learners are forced into the same mould as IITs or JNU, even though the contexts and resources are vastly different. A small rural university with a social mission is judged by the same yardstick as metropolitan powerhouses, leaving its transformative impact invisible.

The metrics themselves privilege older, urban institutions. The 'Peer Perception' category, with a ten per cent weightage, rewards reputation and legacy rather than real impact. It ensures the elite keep winning, while newer or regionally focused universities barely register, even if they are doing vital work in leadership, community engagement, or access to higher education.

Research indicators are equally problematic. The obsession with counting papers, citations, and impact factors has turned scholarship into a box-ticking game, pushing academics towards self-citation, paper mills, and superficial collaborations. Though NIRF 2025 has introduced negative marking for retracted papers, the deeper malaise remains: research judged by numbers rather than substance. Innovation and rigorous scholarship are overshadowed by the chase for bibliometric points.

When it comes to teaching quality, the picture is no better. The assessment focuses narrowly on ratios, budgets, and infrastructure, while classroom experience—mentoring, pedagogy, and student growth—is sidelined. No spreadsheet can measure whether an institution has truly uplifted its students or empowered its region, yet that is precisely what is ignored.

The larger consequence is obvious: NIRF entrenches privilege. Elite institutions accumulate more prestige, funding, and applicants, while hardworking regional colleges remain anonymous. Instead of widening recognition and rewarding diversity, the rankings narrow the field further, worsening existing inequalities.

If the framework is to have any credibility, radical reform is unavoidable. Data verification must be made mandatory, transparent, and open to public audit. NIRF should publish the final ranks and the entire dataset, along with clear explanations and corrections, following an independent review. Perception metrics must be drastically reduced, if not scrapped altogether, and replaced by measures that reward inclusion, social mission, and regional impact.

Research assessment should move beyond raw numbers to engagement, interdisciplinarity, and contributions to real-world problems. For teaching, alumni reviews, classroom audits, and examples of innovation must become central. Most importantly, institutions found manipulating data must face real penalties: public disclosure, temporary exclusion from rankings, and reinstatement only after scrutiny.

Until such changes happen, NIRF will remain less a reformer and more an impediment—misleading students, parents, and policymakers, and encouraging institutions to chase metrics instead of improving education. Unless it is rebuilt on integrity, it will only be a glittering annual show that props up a few elites while masking a troubled reality.

(The writer is a former professor and former dean of a Bengaluru-based university)

BULLETIN BOARD

React Native mobile app development
Pianalytix Edutech Private Limited is hiring mobile app development interns who can work from home. Students with knowledge of Android, Database Management System (DBMS), iOS, Mobile Application Development, and React Native can apply by January 29. The stipend is Rs 16,000 /month. Apply at: https://shorturl.at/aT8Xx.

Prompt designer trainee internship
Imapro.in Foundation is hiring prompt designer trainee interns who can work from home. Students proficient in written English can apply by January 29. The stipend is Rs 2,000-5,000 / month. Apply at: https://shorturl.at/gFcKr.

Software testing internship
Ayu Devices is hiring software testing interns in Bengaluru. Students with knowledge of database testing, manual testing, software testing, and usability testing can apply by January 29. The stipend is Rs 8,000-12,000 /month. Apply at: https://shorturl.at/IJMWA.

Digital marketing internship
GenAI People is hiring digital marketing interns in Bengaluru. Students with written and spoken English proficiency can apply by January 29. The stipend is Rs 20,000-25,000 /month. Apply at: https://shorturl.at/TLWIm.

Reimagining humanities stream in the digital age

DARSHAN B M

A quiet transformation is taking place in Indian higher education. In classrooms once dominated by essays and printed texts, students are now learning to interpret data, curate digital archives, and use mapping tools to visualise literature, history, and culture.

The discipline driving this change is the Digital Humanities, a field that integrates technology and the humanities to enhance learning, making it more analytical, collaborative, and relevant to contemporary contexts.

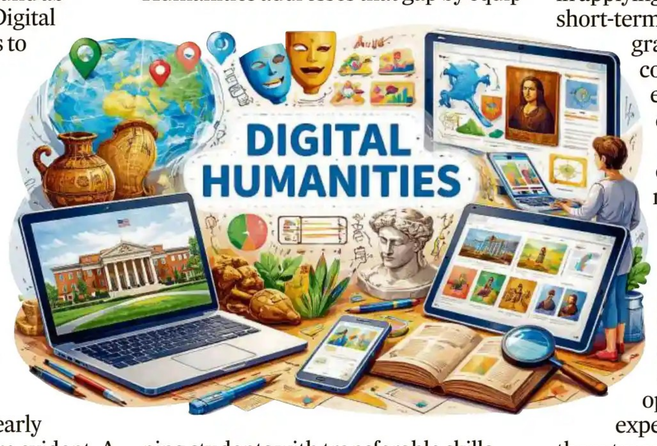
Although the term may sound abstract, its essence is simple: Digital Humanities uses digital tools to study and represent human culture. It could mean creating online archives of regional literature, using text analysis to examine how certain ideas evolved in newspapers, or building interactive websites that explain historical events. It merges critical thinking with technological literacy, two skills that every modern learner needs.

In India, the Digital Humanities remain in their early stages, but signs of change are evident. A growing number of universities have begun integrating digital components into humanities, media, and social science courses. Modules on data visualisation, digital storytelling, and computational research methods are slowly finding space in revised curricula.

For example, literature students are being introduced to text-mining tools that can analyse thousands of pages in seconds to reveal linguistic patterns. History students are learning to create virtual tours and digital timelines of freedom movements. Media and journalism students are exploring how algorithms influence news selection and audience engagement. These small but meaningful shifts suggest that Indian classrooms are beginning to see technology not as a threat to the humanities but as a partner in discovery.

The Indian classroom shift

A challenge for humanities education in India has been its perceived lack of "market value." Parents often question how degrees in history, literature, or sociology will translate into jobs. Digital Humanities addresses that gap by equipping students with transferable skills from data interpretation and project design to digital archiving and public communication.



Today's employers in the media, heritage, publishing, and design sectors seek individuals who can manage digital data while understanding the nuances of culture and storytelling. Students trained in the Digital Humanities may work on projects such as creating museum exhibits using augmented reality, managing digital libraries, analysing audience engagement trends, or designing online learning content.

Yet, the implementation in India faces several challenges. Infrastructure is a major barrier, limiting access to software, digital labs, and collaborative workspaces, which restricts experimentation. Many humanities departments still rely heavily on traditional lecture-based teaching.

Faculty training is another issue. Few teachers in conventional humanities disciplines have been formally introduced to computational methods. As a result, even when there is enthusiasm, there may be hesitation or a lack of confidence in applying digital tools. Workshops, short-term faculty development programmes, and interdisciplinary collaborations are slowly emerging, but the pace of change is uneven.

There is also the challenge of awareness. Many students remain unaware that the Digital Humanities is a discipline. For them, coding and culture seem like opposite worlds. Institutions need to bridge this gap through orientation sessions, open electives, and project-based learning opportunities. Once students experience how software can help them trace the evolution of social ideas or visualise regional literature, their perspective changes completely.

Interesting road ahead

Interestingly, India is uniquely positioned to benefit from Digital Humanities. With its vast linguistic diversity, rich archives, and oral traditions, the country holds immense cultural data awaiting digitisation and interpretation.

Many government and non-government initiatives have begun digitising manuscripts, folk songs, community newspapers, and art forms. But these digital collections will reach their full potential only when scholars and students learn to analyse, curate, and contextualise them, precisely what Digital Humanities aims to do.

More than new technology, Digital Humanities requires a new mindset in education. It demands that teachers become facilitators of exploration rather than mere transmitters of content. Students, in turn, learn to collaborate not just within their discipline but across fields. A linguistics student may work with a coder to visualise dialect changes; a historian may collaborate with a designer to create an interactive museum website. This interdisciplinary teamwork develops both intellectual curiosity and professional readiness.

Educators are beginning to see that Digital Humanities can revitalise the humanities classroom. Assignments are no longer limited to essays or exams; students might now produce podcasts, digital exhibitions, or short documentaries that blend research with media production. Such formats appeal to today's learners, who are already comfortable with digital devices and visual content.

What institutions must do

For Digital Humanities to take root in India, institutions need to move beyond one-time experiments. Structured courses, dedicated labs, and collaborative research centres can provide continuity. Partnerships between universities, archives, cultural bodies, and tech organisations could create opportunities for field-based learning. More importantly, there is a need for policy-level support to include digital literacy within the broader framework of humanities education.

(The author is an assistant professor based in Bengaluru)

Lectures may not be the best method to teach adults: Study

Learning later in life isn't just possible; it is important for a good quality of life. It can boost memory, emotional well-being, and even a sense of purpose. A new study shows that older adults learn best when taught using the same methods that work for younger people: active participation, meaningful discussions, and material relevant to their lives. The findings emphasise that the standard lecture-based learning method does not align with older adults' characteristics, as it requires strong memory and often feels irrelevant.

This new research, published in Educational Gerontology, by Prof. Anat Zohar of the Seymour Fox School of Education at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Dr Yochai Z. Shavit of the Stanford Centre on Longevity, builds on an earlier study, led by the same team, that found that older women actually learned better as they got older.

Based on interviews with 19 women in the "third age," the study found that, contrary to common stereotypes, they reported learning better than at any earlier time in their lives, and it also explained what made this later-life learning especially effective.

Primarily, they reported a better understanding because they can connect new knowledge to prior knowledge and experience. The results challenged common assumptions about ageing and showed that the right learning conditions can help older adults thrive.

The article shows that the same principles that help children and young adults learn deeply—active learning, connecting new ideas to things we already know, meaningful tasks, and learning with and from others—are just as important, if not more so, for older learners.

Although programs for older adults have become more common, many rely heavily on passive learning rather than on research-based methods. An enormous industry, worth many millions of dollars per year, consists of courses for older adults that are primarily lecture-based, despite growing evidence that this approach is not suited to their needs.

"We're teaching older adults the wrong way," says Prof. Zohar. "The dominant model is still the lecture, but it is built on assumptions that simply don't hold for older learners.

"First, it relies heavily on memorisation, even though memory is the very ability that tends to decline with age. Second, it doesn't connect new ideas to the rich knowledge and life experience older adults already have—one of their most significant learning resources. And third, lectures rarely create the meaningful, relevant learning and relationships that drive motivation in later life.

"Despite the large industry built around them, lectures just don't work pedagogically. Older adults enjoy attending them, but they don't retain enough. High-quality, active learning can support cognitive abilities, promote health, and even contribute to longer lives."

This "lecture industry" is part of a much larger market. The researchers argue that older adulthood is a rich and meaningful stage of life, and that education can help individuals remain mentally sharp, emotionally fulfilled, and socially connected.

- Phys.org

Sprinter Dhanalakshmi slapped with eight-year ban

NEW DELHI, PTI: Uttarakhand left-arm pacer Rajan Kumar failed a dope test and was handed provisional suspension by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) in a rare case involving a cricketer.

The 29-year-old Kumar's dope sample was found to contain anabolic steroids Drostanolone and Metenolone, as well as Clomifene, which has the ability to restore testosterone levels among men.

The 27-year-old Tamil Nadu sprinter Dhanalakshmi Sekar, who has failed a dope test for the second time in her career, has been handed an eight year ban effective from September 2025.

Achyuta elected Chief Patron

BENGALURU, DHNS: Achyuta Samanta, the founder of KIIT and KISS, was unanimously elected as the Chief Patron of the Indian Volleyball Federation (VFI) at the 72nd Senior National Volleyball Championship in Varanasi. The decision came during VFI's Annual General Council meeting.

Achyuta Samanta

K'taka emerge champions

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka men's and women's teams were crowned champions in the 46th Senior National Throwball Championship that was held from January 1 to 4 in Madhya Pradesh.

In the men's final, Karnataka beat Madhya Pradesh 25-12, 25-21 to win while the women's team overcame Andhra Pradesh 25-14, 25-12.

Results: All finals: Men: Karnataka bt Madhya Pradesh 25-12, 25-21
Women: Karnataka bt Andhra Pradesh 25-14, 25-12.

TENNIS BENGALURU OPEN

Manas makes a big statement

Pune teenager stuns fifth seed Dodig; Nagal downs Prajwal

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Teenager Manas Dhamne lit up the opening day of the Bengaluru Open with the biggest win of his young career as the world No. 556 stunned fifth seed Croatia's Matej Dodig (No. 231) in a three-set battle on Monday.

The 18-year-old wildcard from Pune, winning his first main-draw match at the event after a first-round exit last year, held his nerve to beat the 20-year-old Croat 7-5, 4-6, 6-1 in a contest that went on for over two hours.

Meanwhile, India's top-ranked player Sumit Nagal (No. 275), who was playing his first match in three months following an injury-ridden last season, had a smooth start to his 2026 season as he beat Mysuru-born Prajwal Dev 6-3, 6-2 with his fitness and movement clearly making the difference.

Nagal did drop his serve in the opening game of the match but it turned out to be a minor blip as his superior-level of game and big serves turned the local boy error prone in what appeared to be a mismatch.

Earlier in the day, third seed Jay Clarke of Great Britain was upset by France's Matteo Martineau 6-4, 1-6, 2-6.

In the first Indian match of the main draw, Dhamne stood out instantly with his movement and agility around the court as he constantly neutralised the heavy serves of Dodig, who struggled to find any real consistency throughout the match.

Training at the Piatti Tennis Centre in Italy for over half a decade now, the quality in teenager's game was telling as the power of his backhand repeatedly pushed the Croat despite Dodig's attempts to make him uncomfortable to his left.

After an even start to the match, errors slowly crept into the Croat's game even though he stayed level till 5-5 with some timely forehand winners but the next game proved decisive as Dhamne pounced on a couple of mistakes to earn break points.

Dodig saved a few with big serves, including an ace, but his joy was short-lived as another shaky service game allowed Dhamne to clinch the set 7-5. The Croat's frustration boiled over as he smashed his racquet, drawing a warning from the chair umpire. The second set saw Dhamne momentarily drop his guard with both players struggled with their second serves in an even start but the Indian blinked first in the fifth game, handing Dodig the break. The Croat sensed the shift and closed out the set 6-4 with a couple of aces to force a decider.

However, the final set belonged completely to Dhamne as he broke Dodig early by drawing him into long rallies and capitalising on errors, racing to a 3-1 lead. From there on Dodig lost his grip as the teenager's intensity only grew with another break before sealing the set.

Speaking after the game, Dhamne said: "I had trouble in predicting his serves in the second set so I decided to make a 50-50 guess and move towards my left or right like goalkeepers do in football and it worked well for me because if I decide not to move, it was becoming difficult to contain his serves."

Results: Round 1 (Indians unless mentioned): Manas Dhamne bt 5xMatej Dodig (Cro) 7-5, 6-4,6-1; Sumit Nagal bt Prajwal Dev 6-3, 6-3; 3xJay Clarke (GBR) lt to Matteo Martineau (Fra) 6-4, 1-6, 2-6, Petr Bar Biryukov (ATP) lt lto 2xHarold Mayot (Fra) 1-6, 4-6; Vladyslav Orlov (Ukr) lt to Dan Martin (Can) 7-6 (4), 5-7, 4-6.
Qualifiers: Round 2 (Indians only): Alexis Gautier (Fra) bt Sidharth Rawat 6-4, 6-4.

India's Manas Dhamne celebrates his shock opening round win over Croatia's Matej Dodig in the Bengaluru Open on Monday. DH PHOTO/ KRISHNAKUMAR PS

Kothari, a true gentleman of the green baize

Manoj Kothari
(1958-2026)

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Manoj Kothari, one of India's finest billiards exponents who went on to groom multiple world and national champions and provided expertise to administrators in an accomplished career, passed away on Monday at a hospital in Tirunelveli after suffering a massive cardiac arrest.

Kothari, whose entire family including wife Neeta, son Sourav and daughter Shreya played the sport at the highest level, had undergone a liver transplant 10 days ago. Although the surgery was successful, he developed a lung infection a few days back and succumbed to a massive cardiac arrest, according to family sources. He was 67.

"It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of former World billiards champion and chief National coach Manoj Kothari," said S Balasubramaniam, president, Billiards and Snooker Federation of India. "On behalf of the BSFI, I extend my deepest condolences to Manoj Kothari's family at this difficult time. His demise is a huge loss to the cue sports fraternity."

A true gentleman, who kept giving back to the sport in multiple ways until the very end, Kothari was one of the top cueists in the 1980s and 90s. Primarily a billiards player – a discipline that was as popular as snooker then – Kothari etched his name in history when he lifted his maiden IBSF World Billiards Championship in 1990. Despite being one of the most intelligent players whose reading of angles and scientific approach bewildered many, Kothari couldn't quite go on and translate that into multiple world titles like his contemporary Geet Sethi or Pankaj Advani, the best of this generation.

His only solace was the World Doubles Billiards Championship which he won in 1997.

Following years of heartbreak as a player, Kothari quit playing around the millennium and took up coaching where his deep understanding of the green baize played a pivotal role in the rise of Advani, his son Sourav (a two-time world champion) among others.

"I've had a great relationship with Manoj sir since 2004 when I was recruited by ONGC and he was the coach and game co-coordinator there," 27-time world champion Pankaj Advani told *DH*. "We've become really close over the years and I owe a lot of my success to him. Not just me, he's been a father figure to much of this generation. He even coached Geet too.

"As an administrator he was an extremely capable, as a coach he was top class. But to top it all he was an even better human being and that is why you know it fills my heart with sorrow that he's no more. I just want to convey my heartfelt and deepest condolences to Sourav, his mom and sister."

What endeared about Kothari, who served as the national coach of the billiards team from 2011 for over a decade and a half, was his selflessness and humility. Despite his son Sourav being a rival to Advani and many others, Kothari was always there to help. During international tours he doubled up as manager too, overseeing everything from accommodation to travel to food, taking extra care of vegetarians.

EIRS bag 10 medals, including six golds, at JNEC

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Embassy International Riding School riders secured 10 medals, including 6 gold, 3 silver and 1 bronze, at the Junior National Equestrian Championship (JNEC) held recently in Delhi.

EIRS' Eshaan Sundaram, who won the Choldred Group 1 Dressage and team golds, was also declared the joint best rider in his category.

EIRS leaders: Children Gp 1 Dressage (Individual gold): Eshaan Sundaram (Etiona).
Children Gp 1 Dressage (Team gold): Kripa Jain (Christy), Eshaan Sundaram (Eotina), Kiara Rupesh (Kaboeki), Nikshita Pandey (GSE's Escobar).
Children Gp I Show-jumping Normal (Team silver): Siddharth Nanda (Megan), Diego Marren (Theodore).
Junior Show-jumping Normal (Individual bronze): Rishab Kadam (Faberge's Hero, EIRS)
NEC Preliminary Show Jumping Normal (Team bronze): Ashish Limaye (Barnaby), Thivyesh Ram (Klaver, CS), Prithiv Krishna (Pharrel, CS), Adharsh Janne (Galaxie, CS)

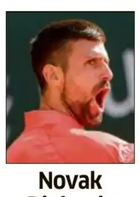
Indian shuttlers eye strong start

KUALA LUMPUR, PTI: With renewed vigour, Indians, including the duo of Lakshya Sen and P V Sindhu, will eye a strong start to the year when they take on the world's best at the season-opening USD 1,450,000 Malaysia Open Super 1000 tournament, beginning here on Tuesday.

Indian badminton endured a very difficult 2025 season marked by injuries and inconsistent performances at the top level.

Djokovic leaves PTPA union

WASHINGTON, AP: Novak Djokovic is cutting ties with the Professional Tennis Players Association, a group he co-founded that sued the sport's governing bodies last year, writing on social media that "my values and approach are no longer aligned with the current direction of the organisation."



Novak Djokovic

Djokovic announced at the 2020 US Open that he and now-retired Canadian player Vasek Pospisil were launching the PTPA.

They said they were aiming to offer representation for players who are independent contractors.

One of the goals made clear along the way was to become a sort of full-fledged union that negotiates collective bargaining agreements like those that exist in team sports, although that sort of thing hasn't happened. Djokovic said had "ongoing concerns regarding transparency and the way of it being represented.

Ajay Sharma-trained Bhujang clinches Ponza Plate

DELHI RESULTS

Ajay Sharma-trained Bhujang, ridden by SG Prasad, won the upper division of the Ponza Plate, the feature event of the Delhi races on Monday.

1. Sunray Plate - 1400M: Rhapsody In Green (Sudhir Chaudhary) R.Yousaf 1; Jet Space (S G Prasad) 2; Ustaad Ji (Saurav Rawat) 3; Personal (M B Qureshi) 4; Wb: 1-1/4, 3-1/2, 3-1/2L.. T: 1-27.94. TB: Sarfaraz Khan. Fav: Jet Space.
2. Ponza Plate (Div-I) - 1400M: Bhujang (Sanjay Rai) S G Prasad 1 Ronaldo (Varun) 2; The Panther (Nazil) 3; Rinku Romeo (Arjun) 4; Wb: 1, 3/4, 1l. T: 1-24.10. TB: Ajay Sharma. Fav: The Panther..
3. Ponza Plate (Div-II) - 1400M: Attenborough (Rajinder) Rakesh 1; Treasurer (Dhanu Deora) 2; Big Daddy (Kundan Paswan) 3; Mr Christopher (Angad) 4; Wb: Shd, 2, 1-1/2L. T: 1-25.07. TB: Rajinder. Fav: Mr Christopher.
4. Bee's Prospector Plate - 1200M: Senor (Sanjay Rai) S G Prasad 1; Burning Desire (Dhanu Deora) 2; Nashvegas (Narendra Kumar) 3; Ashwa Changez (Vishal) 4; Not Run: Insta Millionair. Wb: 2-1/2, 2-1/4L, Nk. T: 1-13.65. TB: Ajay Sharma. Fav: Ashwa Changez.
5. Razeen Plate - 1000M: Time To Win (Nand Kishire) Angad 1; Tomorrows Dreams (Vishal Shivhare) 2; Lemon Pie (Kundan Paswan) 3; Master Tornado (Riazuddin) 4; Wb: Hd, 3-1/4L, Shd. T: 0-59.58. TB: Zulfiqar Khan. Fav: Lemon Pie.
6. China Visit Plate - 1000M: Miss Irina (Amarjeet Singh Narula) Vishal 1; Chieftain (Nazil) 2; Lady Danger (Rakesh) 3; Ashwa Kanika (Angad) 4. Wb: 4-3/4, 2, 3/4L. T: 0-59.90. TB: R.Kumar. Fav: Chieftain.
Bengaluru dividends:
I race: Rs 22w; 10, 10, 14p; Fc: Rs 47; Q: Rs 22; Shp: Rs 28; Thp: Rs 32: Tri: Rs 173 & 208; Ex: Rs 492 & 161.
II race: Rs 63w; 12, 12, 10p; Fc: Rs 284; Q: Rs 168; Shp: Rs 27; Thp: Rs 43; Tri: Rs 333 & 124; Ex: Rs 1,584 & 714.
III race: Rs 29w; 10, 19p; Fc: Rs 108; Q: Rs 61; Shp: Rs 30; Thp: Rs 37; Tri: Rs 188 & 115; Ex: Rs 243 & 70.
IV race: Rs 52w; 13, 13, 14p: Fc: Rs 247; Q: Rs 126; Shp: Rs 27; Thp: Rs 60; Tri: Rs 1,537 & 732; Ex: Rs 1,570 & 403.
V race: Rs 33w; 15, 16, 13p; Fc: Rs 150; Q: Rs 82; Shp: Rs 55; Thp: Rs 51; Tri: Rs 246 & 81; Ex: Rs 836 & 586.
VI race: Rs 76w; 18, 10, 24p; Fc: Rs 185; Q: Rs 60; Shp: Rs 22; Thp: Rs 75; Tri: Rs 859 & 631; Ex: Rs 9,456 & 3,242.
Jackpot: Rs 69,366 (3).
Runner-up: Rs 1,858 (48).
Treble: Rs 1,275 (70).

Russell hat-trick in HIL GC win

CHENNAI, PTI

New Zealander Kane Russell struck a hat-trick, including a late penalty corner conversion, to help HIL GC edge past SG Pipers 3-2 in a thrilling men's Hockey India League match here on Monday.

Russell (35th, 37th, 60th) sealed the contest in the dying seconds of HIL GC's opening match of the competition. Ky Willott (31st) and Dilraj Singh (56th) scored a goal each for the Pipers.

SG Pipers made a lively start to the match, using swift passing and early attacking moves to put their opponents under pressure. Their positive approach earned them a penalty corner in the fourth minute, but they were unable to capitalise on the opportunity. HIL GC gradually settled into the contest and responded with a few attacking forays of their own to relieve the pressure. With less than five minutes remaining in the opening quarter, they earned a penalty corner, which also went unconverted.

The closest chance of the quarter came in the dying seconds when HIL GC threatened to break the deadlock, but the Pipers goalkeeper Tomas Santiago produced a close-range save to ensure the first quarter ended goalless.

The second quarter unfolded in an end-to-end fashion, with both SG Pipers and HIL GC stepping up the intensity and making frequent circle entries. Each side created multiple scoring opportunities and applied sustained pressure.

(Public Works Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Madhugiri
No:EE/PWD/Dvn/AE-1/Tender/2025-26 Dated: 30.12.2025
Invitation For Short term Tender
Tender ref no:21/2025-26

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Madhugiri, invites tenders from eligible Tenderers, for the works. (Sira, Koratagere, Madhugiri and Pavagada Taluk) Approx. amount for the work is Rs 649.00Lakhs. Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPPP portal of the Govt. of Karnataka Viz.http://KPPP.gov.in.Tenders must be submitted through KPPP portal on or before 17-01-2026 (up to 4.00 pm), Technical bids will be opened on 19-01-2026 after 4.15 Pm, Financial bid will be opened on 20-01-2026 after 4.15 Pm. Further any other information can be seen from the KPPP portal or can be had from the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Madhugiri

DIPR/TUM/394/KSMCA/2025-26

ZILLA PANCHAYATH, TUMKUR
RURAL DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION DIVISION TUMKUR
Short term tender notification
NO. 16/EE/RDWS&SD/TMK/JJM /AE-2/3073 / 2025-26 Date: 01-01-2026

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation Division Tumkur has Invites request for proposal tenders from the eligible bidders for the Two Cover work detailed in the table below. Tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTPP act shall be followed. The tenders are Required submit through Karnataka Public Procurement mode through portal. **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)** from Class-II & above PWD Registered Contractors who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following JJM Works of GUBBI Taluk of Tumkur Dist. As per the schedule given below. (Minimum Tender Amount **Rs. 101.55 Lakhs** EMD Amount **Rs. 2,00,000/-** and Maximum Tender Amount **Rs. 202.45 Lakhs** EMD Amount **Rs. 3,03,675/-**)

Sl. No	Particulars	Details
1	Last date of submit bids on Karnataka Public Procurement portal	**17-01-2026 Upto 17.00 Hours**
2	Pre Bid Meeting	**Date: 14-01-2026 at 11.00 A M Venue, Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking water & Sanitation Division Tumkur**
3	Technical Opening of Bids	**19-01-2026 at 17.30 PM onwards**
4	Financial Opening of Bids	**22-01-2026 at 11.00 A M onwards**

For further particulars/details may avail from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days and may visit the website **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)**

Sd/- (SRI K.M. Kumaraswamy)
Executive Engineer
RDW&S, Divison, TUMKUR

DIPR/TUM/RO-208/25-26/Oysters

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Hemavathy Canal Division, Yediyur-572 142. Ph: 7338590199
E-mail:eeyediyur1@gmail.com
No.18/2025-26 Date: 29.12.2025
KPPP SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(TWO COVER SYSTEM) (Through KPPP only)

On the behalf of the Managing Director, CNNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer, CNNL, Hemavathi Canal. Division, Yediyur the undersigned invites tender on item rate basis from contractors for 3 Works.
The Maximum amount put to tender is 322.35 lakhs & Minimum amount put to tender is 319.02 lakhs.
The Time Fixed for completion the work is 05 Months. EMD Amount and Processing fees should be paid through KPP Portal. The last date for tender Queries/ Clarifications is 03.01.2026 up to 5.00 pm, The last date for Receival of tenders along with EMD'S is 07.01.2026 up to 4:00 pm. Technical Bid will be opened on 08.01.2026 at 4.00 Pm.
For more information contact www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Hemavathy Canal Division, CNNL, Yediyur.

DIPR/TUM/393/KSMCA/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. DIVISION, GADAG.
Phone No : 08372-238782 Fax No. 08372-237268
E.Mail : eepwdgad@gmail.com
No: EEPWDGDG PB- 1, 3 :Diferent Head : 2025-26/4325
Dated : 04-01-2026
Tender Notification

The Executive Engineer, Public works department. Division,Gadag invites itemwise tenders from eligible tenderers of 08 work of total amount of **Rs 244.00** Lakh (Min estimate amount: **Rs- 07.00** Lakhs to Max Estimate Amount: **100.00** Lakhs) for the Different Head of account on behalf of the Hon'able Governor of Karnataka as per Standard Bid Document KW- 1 and 3, through http:// www. kppp. Karnataka. gov.in/
Work Indent No: Part-1, 29552/-ST, 28954/Category-2A Call-2, 28921/ST Call-2,30097Call-2, 28907/Call-2 31677 , and 24288,
(a) Last Date for Clarification up to : **09-01-2026** (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : **12-01-2026** Noon 4.00 PM (c) Opening of Technical/Financial Bid Date: **13-01-2026** Opening of Financial Bid Date: **14-01-2026**
Work Indent No: **Part-2, 30730**
(a) Last Date for Clarification up to : **16-01-2026** (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : **17-01-2026** Noon 4.00 PM (c) Opening of Technical /Financial Bid Date: **19-01-2026** Opening of Financial Bid Date: **20-01-2026.**
GST shall be paid separately as per prevailing Government Order. The increase in GST shall not be paid in the extended period of contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/504/2025-26 **P.W.D. Division, Gadag.**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521
No: CEE/Tr(Op)ZH/SEE(O)/AEE-2/FA-54& A56 /2025-26/12125-26 Date: 05.01.2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL invites bids through e-Procurement mode for the following work:

Tender no. KPTCL/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT3065/Call-2 for "Combined package for Providing **2.9MVAR, 12.1kV Capacitor Bank at 110/11kV sub-station Machenahalli & 66/11kV sub-station Kudligere** coming under Operations Division, KPTCL, Shivamogga **on PTK basis.** (11kV Switchgear will be supplied by KPTCL)" **(Reserved for category- IIA).**

The bids will be received through "KPP portal" mode only. The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the E-Tendering process can be obtained by logging on to website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** with hyper link "tenders" **on or after 06-01-2026 at 11.00 hrs.** Other details can be had from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Elec.,)
Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL,
3rd Floor, Prasarna Bhavana, Santhepete, B.M. Road, Hassan-573 201.

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprises)
Ref: 1) No: No: EE/ RNR/UTP/PB-3/2025-26/2375, 2376, 2377 Dt:02-01-2026
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPPP- portal system)

Percentage tenders are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore, from eligible bidders who satisfies through GO KPPP platform shall submit the bid as per Ref in Single cover/ two cover Electronic document system for 05 Works under the head of account 4701 for Tender amount of Rs.1785.48 (without GST) Lakhs & 02 Works under the head of account 2701 for Tender amount of Rs.22.43 (without GST) Lakhs. Indent No: 3212/call-3, 3219/call-2, 3220/call-2, 3224/call-2, 3226/call-2, 3645/call-2, 3646/call-2. The details are as follows:

(1)The contractor can have access to e tender documents for above Tenders From:05-01-2026 to 13-01-2026 @ 5-30 pm (2) Last Date and time for tender queries before 09-01-2026 Upto 04.00 PM (3) Technical/ Financial Bid will be opened On 15-01-2026 @ 11.30 AM & financial Bid will be opened after the Approval Technical Bid at office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, UTP Division, Ranebennur. Any changes made in the said Notification Corrected /Corrigendum's will be uploaded in the KPP- portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL, U.T.P. Dn, Ranebennur.

1543

Sharvil Karambelkar (left) and Sakshya Santhosh pose with their spoils.

Sharvil, Sakshya settle for silver

BENGALURU, DHNS: Two young Karnataka paddlers Sharvil Karambelkar and Sakshya Santhosh settled for silver medals in their respective under-11 singles categories at the WTT Youth Contenders in Gujarat on Monday.

The duo were defeated in the U-11 singles finals with Sharvil losing to Rajdeep Biswas in four games while Sakshya was handed a three-game (15-13, 11-8, 12-10) defeat by Aadhya Baheti.

In the under-15 mixed doubles final, Reyansh Jalan and Tanishka Kapil Kalabhirav took home a silver medal after falling to Vivaan Dave and Naisha Rewaskar 11-8, 11-8, 11-3.

Results: (All finals): U-11: Boys: Singles: Rajdeep Biswas bt Sharvil Karambelkar 11-8, 11-6, 11-13, 11-4.

Girls: Singles: Aadhya Baheti bt Sakshya Santhosh 15-13, 11-8, 12-10.

U-15 mixed doubles: Vivaan Dave/Naisha Rewaskar bt Reyansh Jalan/Tanishka Kapil Kalabhirav 11-8, 11-8, 11-3.

Kalinga brace powers IT

BENGALURU, DHNS: Prashanth Kalinga scored a brace as Income Tax FC defeated Bangalore Eagles 2-0 in the A Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Monday.

Results: Income Tax FC: 2 (Prashanth Kalinga 66th, 87th) bt Bangalore Eagles FC: 0; Blitz FC: 2 (Atharv Apurv Shukla 52nd, 57th) bt RWF FC: 1 (Praksh Chandar 9th); Roots FS: 1 (Mayunk Denduluri 49th) drew with Jawahar Union FC: 1 (Nitesh Sharma 34th).

IN BRIEF

Anahat storms into semis

Rising Indian player Anahat Singh moved into the women's semifinals of the British Junior Under-19 Open squash tournament, reports PTI from Birmingham.

The Indian top seed beat Egypt's Barb Sameh 11-4, 10-12, 11-9, 11-3 in the quarterfinals at the University of Birmingham. She will meet another Egyptian, Malika El Karasky, in the semifinals.

Atiqa secures top five finish

ABU DHABI, PTI: The 11-year-old racing prodigy Atiqa Mir made a spectacular switch from mini to the much tougher junior S125 category as she became the first Indian to secure a top five finish globally on debut during round seven of the IAME UAE Karting Championship at the fabled Yas Marina Circuit.

Atiqa, the first Indian to be supported by Formula 1 Academy, was thrown in at deep end with the move up to the junior S125 category (age 12-14) in the new year.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

5th Ashes: Australia vs England (day 3, 4:30 am). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

HOCKEY

HIL: SG Pipers vs Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers (**women, 4:30 pm**), Tamil Nadu Dragons vs JSW Soorma Hockey Club (**women, 7:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

TENNIS

Bengaluru Open: Day 2 (11:00 am). **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

FOOTBALL

Man United sack manager Amorim after 14-month reign

Current U-18 coach Fletcher will take charge of the Red Devils in interim capacity

LONDON, AFP

Ruben Amorim has been sacked as Manchester United manager 14 months after arriving at Old Trafford, the Premier League club announced on Monday.

The dismissal follows growing tensions between Amorim and the Old Trafford hierarchy, including director of football Jason Wilcox, in recent days.

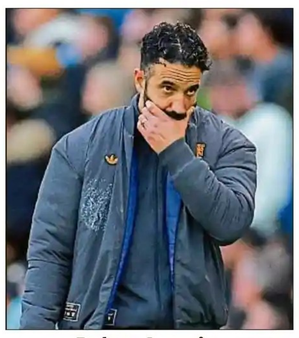
United said in a statement that the Portuguese had left his role, with the club's leadership having "reluctantly made the decision that it is the right time to make a change".

The club added: "This will give the team the best opportunity of the highest possible Premier League finish.

"The club would like to thank Ruben for his contribution to the club and wishes him well for the future."

Current under-18s coach Darren Fletcher will take charge of the team against Burnley on Wednesday.

United are currently sixth in the Premier League table after a 1-1 draw at Leeds on Sunday.



Ruben Amorim

After that game, an irate Amorim stressed he was United's manager rather than just the coach during an eye-catching press conference in which he told the scouting department and Wilcox "to do their job".

The 40-year-old had alluded to frustration behind the scenes in the build-up to the match, refusing to clarify comments about the club's transfer plans.

He had looked downbeat when he sidestepped those questions but was more forthcoming when asked on Sunday if he still felt he had confidence from the board.

"Guys, to start with that -- and I noticed that you receive selective information about everything -- I came here to be the manager of the Manchester United, not to be the coach of Manchester United," Amorim said.

"And that is clear. I know that my name is not (Thomas) Tuchel, it's not (Antonio) Conte, it's not (Jose) Mourinho but I'm the manager of Manchester United.

"And it's going to be like this for 18 months or when the board decides to change, so that was my point.

"I want to finish with that. I'm not going to quit. I will do my job until another guy is coming here to replace me."

United appointed Amorim to replace the sacked Erik ten Hag in November 2024.

He had established himself as one of the most sought-after young coaches in world football at Sporting Lisbon, where he won two league titles.

Amorim led United to the Europa League final in Bilbao in May, which they lost to Tottenham, but finished a shocking 15th in the Premier League table -- their lowest finish in more than 50 years.

The club have made marginal improvements this season but have been inconsistent, winning just eight of their 20 league games so far.

They are 17 points behind leaders Arsenal.

Amorim's 14-month stint is the shortest reign of a permanent manager at United since David Moyes was sacked just eight months into his tenure in 2014.

The club, 20-time English champions, have not won the Premier League since 2013, in Alex Ferguson's final season in charge.

Battling Chelsea dent City's title hopes

MANCHESTER, AFP: Enzo Fernandez dealt a massive blow to Manchester City's Premier League title hopes with a 94th-minute equaliser to snatch a 1-1 draw for managerless Chelsea at the Etihad.

Tijjani Reijnders had blasted City into a deserved half-time lead, but they lost central defenders Josko Gvardiol and Ruben Dias to injury in the second half and then blew two points in the dying seconds when Fernandez prodded in at the back post.

A point is only good enough to edge City back above Aston Villa in second on goal difference and leaves them six points adrift of leaders Arsenal.

Chelsea were under the caretaker charge of the club's under-21 coach Calum McFarlane after parting ways with Enzo Maresca on Thursday.

The Blues have won just once in their last eight league games to slip to fifth in the table, but got their reward for a spirited second-half display to close within three points of the top four.

Atletico draw

Atletico Madrid could only manage a 1-1 draw at Real Sociedad on Sunday, leaving them 11 points behind La Liga leaders Barcelona, reports AFP from Spain.

CRICKET VIJAY HAZARE TROPHY

Unbeaten Karnataka eye knockout berth

Win against Rajasthan will secure a place in the quarters

SIDNEY KIRAN
DH NEWS SERVICE

Unbeaten Karnataka will be looking to lock in a quarterfinal spot when they take on bottom-dwellers Rajasthan in their penultimate Elite Group A match of the Vijay Hazare Trophy in Ahmedabad on Tuesday.

Perched at the top of the table with a perfect 20 points from five games, defending champions will advance to the knockout stage – scheduled to kick off at BCCI's Centre of Excellence from January 12 – if they beat Rajasthan (4) at the Gujarat College Cricket Ground.

Madhya Pradesh (16) are placed second while Jharkhand and Kerala are third and fourth respectively with 12 points each. Only MP, who play Jharkhand on Tuesday and Karnataka in the final group game on Thursday, can reach 24 points if they win both their games. The top two teams from each group advance to the quarterfinals and Karnataka will be guaranteed if they beat Rajasthan.

Given the poor run of Rajasthan and the imperious touch Karnataka have been in, the holders will start overwhelming favourites to ace the contest. Once again, the spotlight will be on Devdutt Padikkal, the opener who has smashed four centuries to lead the batting charts with 514 runs.

Karnataka's R Smaran, who returned to run-making ways against Tripura, will be eyeing a big knock against Rajasthan on Tuesday. DH FILE PHOTO

Serious statement

Out of the national limited-overs set-up – Padikkal last played a T20I against Sri Lanka in July 2021 and hasn't been considered for one-dayers – the gifted 25-year-old has made a serious statement of his credentials and hunger. He has hardly put a foot wrong, constantly giving Karnataka strong starts that has allowed their middle and lower order to flourish. The southpaw, an elegant striker of the ball, will be eyeing another big knock that will set things nicely for him and the team in the business end of the competition.

The game assumes importance for India wicketkeeper K L Rahul who will be looking to hit the stride before he departs for the New Zealand ODI series starting January 11. Rahul, who batted at No. 5 and kept wickets later in the game against Tripura on Saturday, made an enterprising 28-ball 35.

R Smaran, who returned to form with a measured 60 off 82 balls against Tripura, will be hoping for a big knock. He was one of the standout performers for Karnataka in the first phase of the Ranji Trophy before his form waned in the limited-overs leg.

On the bowling front, Karnataka will also have the services of Prasidh Krishna that gives the attack a potent look along with Vyshak Vijaykumar and Shreyas Gopal.

Kohli not available for Railways game

Former India skipper Virat Kohli will not feature in Delhi's sixth Elite Group D Vijay Hazare Trophy fixture against Railways in Alur, reports DHNS.

Kohli, who scored 131 and 77 on his return to the national domestic one-day competition, will soon rejoin the Indian team for the ODI series against New Zealand starting on January 11.

However, Harshit Rana and Rishabh Pant are both available for selection for the game on Tuesday.

Head stands tall after Root's epic Sydney knock

SYDNEY, AFP: An imperious Joe Root hit a magnificent 160 to drive England to 384 in the fifth and final Ashes Test on Monday before Travis Head let rip to haul Australia back into the contest with a rapid-fire unbeaten 91.

Root's superb innings, his 41st ton to match Ricky Ponting, was only ended courtesy of a brilliant caught-and-bowled by Michael Neser, who finished with 4-60.

Australia were left to negotiate the final session of day two at a sold-out Sydney Cricket Ground, which they did for the loss of Jake Weatherald (21) and Marnus Labuschagne (48).

By stumps the hosts -- who have already won the series -- had raced to 166-2 with nightwatchman Neser on one alongside Head.

"I think it's set interestingly," Root told TNT Sports. "Most important for us is not panicking, not dwelling too much on what happened here. It's how we respond tomorrow morning and maximise that chance first up."

Weatherald, who needed a big score to stave off the critics, again failed to live up to expectations since making his debut at the first Test in Perth.

England's Joe Root celebrates after scoring a century against Australia on the second day of the fifth Ashes Test in Sydney on Monday. REUTERS

He was dropped twice in the space of three balls, by Root then Ben Duckett, before Ben Stokes trapped him lbw.

But Head, who like Root has slammed two centuries this series, was in the zone.

Brief scores: England (O/n: 166/2): 384 all out in 97.3 overs (Ben Duckett 27, Joe Root 160, Harry Brook 84, Jamie Smith 46, Will Jacks 27; Mitchell Starc 2-93, Michael Neser 4-60, Scott Boland 2-85) vs Australia: 166/2 in 34.1 overs (Travis Head 91 n.o., Marnus Labuschagne 48; Ben Stokes 2-30).

Iyer to lead Mumbai in rest of VHT

MUMBAI, PTI: India batter Shreyas Iyer **(in pic)** was on Monday named Mumbai's captain for the remainder of the Vijay Hazare Trophy after regular skipper Shardul Thakur was ruled out due to an injury.

Iyer is also coming back after a long injury layoff having suffered a spleen laceration with internal bleeding during the third ODI against Australia in Sydney in October last year. "Shardul has suffered an injury and has been advised to rest. We have other players such as Shivam Dube and Suryakumar Yadav available, and Shreyas Iyer has been named the Mumbai captain for remaining matches," Mumbai chief selector Sanjay Patil told PTI on Monday without specifying the nature of Thakur's injury.

Sooryavanshi's rapid 68 lifts India U-19 2-0 up

BENONI, PTI: Skipper Vaibhav Sooryavanshi hammered a 24-ball 68, a blazing knock that included 10 sixes, as India U-19 recorded an eight-wicket win via DLS method to take an unassailable 2-0 lead against South Africa in the Youth ODI series here on Monday.

India had earlier won the first ODI by 25 runs via DLS Method here at the Willowmoore Park.

For a second time in the series, the contest was affected by bad weather as the game was delayed for a considerable time due to lightening, and the target for the Indian side was revised to 174 needed off 27 overs.

India U-19 were 115 for two in 12.5 overs when lightening struck. Play resumed but the game was called off when India U-19 reached 176 for two in 23.3 overs.

Before the stoppages, Sooryavanshi went berserk to hit 10 sixes and a four to make 68 off a mere 24 balls in his minute-a-mile knock, taking the game away from the opposition.

Brief scores: South Africa U-19: 245 in 49.3 overs (Adnaan Lagadien 25, Jason Rowles 114, Daniel Bosman 31; Kishan Singh 4-64, RS Ambrish 2-47) lt to India U-19: 176/2 in 23.3 overs (Vaibhav Sooryavanshi 68, Vedant Trivedi 31 n.o., Abhigyan Kundu 48 n.o.; Michael Kruiskamp 2-23). **Result:** India U-19 won by 8 wickets. **Series:** India U-19 lead 3-match series 2-0. **PoM:** Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. **Next match:** Jan 7 (Benoni).

Jamwal, Nikhat, Lovlina impress

GREATER NOIDA, PTI

Promising Indian boxer Abhinash Jamwal began his title defence with an impressive win over veteran Shiva Thapa while Nikhat Zareen and Lovlina Borgohain also progressed comfortably on day two of the senior National Championships here on Monday.

The 23-year-old Jamwal registered a comprehensive unanimous decision victory over Assam's Shiva, underlining his emergence from the shadow of his senior compatriot.

Jamwal's growing maturity and international experience were evident as he defended with composure and made full use of his long reach.

Nikhat Zareen

The boxer from Himachal Pradesh has enjoyed a strong run on the international circuit, winning silver medals across three legs of the World Boxing Cup, and that exposure showed in a bout that was widely regarded as the contest of the day.

"Whenever I play with him I feel great. I learn so much, we also have discussions about the bout later," Jamwal said after the win.

Multiple time national champion Shiva, who for the second year running lost to Jamwal, was also full of praise for his younger opponent.

"He is not just a good boxer, he is a good human being and he has the sportsmanship. From the first day in the camp I have seen him, even when he was not in my weight category we used to spar, we sparred maybe hundreds of times. He has the drive and these kind of boxers, they grow," Shiva said.

The after effects of the opening day's chaos were felt on the second day with more than 30 women's bouts shifted to the morning session, while the afternoon session also began ahead of schedule.

Karnataka men post second win

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka men's team registered their second consecutive victory while the women's side lost to the Indian Railways on the second day of the 75th Senior National Basketball Championships at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai on Monday.

In the men's section, Priyanshu Tomar's 22-point effort and Aaron Monterio's 20-point contribution were the centrepiece around which Karnataka posted a comfortable 94-75 victory over Services.

In the corresponding women's category, Sruthi Aravind's valiant 24-point show went in vain as an all-round Railways side scored a thrashing 98-65 victory over Karnataka.

Results: (Only Karnataka): Men: Karnataka 94 (Priyanshu Tomar 22, Aaron Monterio 20, Aravind Arunachalam 14, Shashikant Rai 14) bt Services: 75 (Sunil Rathee 18, Ajay Sih 18, Hemant Sheor 12, HimaHooda 10, Santosh TS 10). **Women:** Indian Railways: 98 (Vaishnavi Yadav 15, Harshitha KB 14, Puspha Senthilkumar 12, Manmeeth Kaur 12) bt Karnataka: 65 (Sruthi Aravind 24, Bhandhavya M 18, Nidhi Umesh 14).

Bangladesh ban broadcast of Indian Premier League

DHAKA, PTI

Bangladesh on Monday banned the broadcast of IPL's upcoming season to protest pacer Mustafizur Rahman's ouster from the world's biggest T20 league on BCCI instructions amid a steady deterioration of the country's diplomatic ties with India.

A statement from the information and broadcast ministry of Muhammad Yunus' interim government here stated that no "logical reason" was given by the BCCI while instructing IPL franchise Kolkata Knight Riders to release Rahman from its 2026 roster.

The IPL is due to start on March 26. The move to ban IPL broadcast came a day after Bangladesh refused to travel to India for next month's T20 World Cup and requested the International Cricket Council to shift all its league games to Sri Lanka, the co-host of the tournament.

"No logical reason for such a decision (Rahman's release) by the BCCI is known, and such a decision has saddened, hurt, and aggrieved the people of Bangladesh," read the government notification.

In the wake of Mustafizur Rahman's release from Kolkata Knight Riders on BCCI's instructions, Bangladesh has banned IPL broadcast. X

"In this situation, until further notice, it is requested by order to stop the broadcasting/telecasting of all matches and programs of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

"This order is issued with the approval of the proper authority and in the public interest," said the signed by assistant secretary Feroz Khan.

BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia, while announcing the diktat to release Rahman, had merely stated that it was being done because of "developments all around", without explaining the specifics.

Bangladesh was scheduled to play three matches in Kolkata and one in Mumbai.

Drawn in Group C, the team was due to face the West Indies in their opening match at Eden Gardens in Kolkata and subsequently compete against defending champions England, Italy and Nepal.

The Indo-Bangladesh relationship has hit a rocky patch after the ouster of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who fled to India in August last year.

Yashika headlines Karnataka win

BENGALURU, DHNS: An unbeaten half-century from Yashika K Gowda and an all-round bowling show helped Karnataka register a convincing 111-run victory over Delhi in the BCCI Women's under-15 One-day Trophy in Kolkata on Sunday.

Batting first, Karnataka posted a competitive 215 for five in 35 overs, thanks to contributions from Yashika (50 not out), Harshitha K (36 not out), OY Rohini Dechamma (36) and Kashvi Kandikuppa (25).

Chasing 216 for victory, Delhi were restricted to a paltry 104 for six in 35 overs, with Sreeka Chatura (2/16) being the pick of Karnataka bowlers.

Brief scores: Karnataka: 215/5 in 35 overs (OY Rohini Dechamma 36, Kashvi Kandikuppa 25, Yashika K Gowda 50 n.o., Harshitha K 36 n.o.) bt Delhi: 104/6 in 35 overs (Khushi 37; Sreeka Chatura 2-16).

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